

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

The Daily Digest

LIBRARY
RECEIVED
★ JUL 14 1942 ★
U. S. Department of Agriculture

Prepared by the Press Service for the use of USDA employees. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department of Agriculture.

Washington, D.C., July 1, 1942

WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN. The weather of the past week was unfavorable over a considerable interior area and the Northwest. In the Central and upper Mississippi and lower Missouri Valleys heavy rains caused inundation of lowlands, retarded grain harvest, and lodged grains and hay. persistent low temperatures of 3 weeks retarded warm-weather crops from the central Mississippi Valley northwestward. Drought in the Southwest, including parts of western Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, still is unrelieved. In practically all other sections of the country the weather was favorable, and the crop outlook remains bright.

East of the Mississippi River, except locally in the western Ohio Valley, favorable harvest weather prevails and good progress is reported, but much of the western Wheat Belt needs fair weather for harvesting. In the southern Great Plains harvest advanced rapidly. In the central trans-Mississippi States continued rains were unfavorable. In the Spring Wheat Belt conditions continue favorable and small-grain crops made good to excellent progress.

East of the Mississippi River, except for local wet areas, principally in southern Illinois, less rainfall permitted active corn field work. In Iowa corn averages nearly knee high, except in the wetter, weedier areas where it is small with poor color. Corn needs warmth and sunshine from central Mississippi Valley northwestward.

On the whole, weather was favorable for the cotton crop. In Texas progress was good in the north and east, fair in the northwest; fruiting is general in the south. In Oklahoma, advance was fair, with warm, dry weather needed in the east where some abandonment is reported. In the central States of the belt, progress was mostly good.

Truck and miscellaneous crops are doing well in most eastern sections, but in large portions of the northern States from the Lake region westward warm weather is needed. Local hail and frost damage was reported in western States, but truck and gardens are doing well. Fruit is generally satisfactory. Except for local dry areas, pastures and meadows are in good to excellent condition in eastern States. Ranges and pastures need rain urgently in the Southwest and parts of the Great Basin, but elsewhere in the West they are in good to excellent condition. In central sections of the country rains delayed haying generally, with conditions unfavorable for curing over wide areas and some heavy losses.

SOLDERING ON FARM. (Farm Journal, July) Soldering is a job you might not think of doing with a storage battery, but it's easy enough when you know how. Quite a few Nebraska farmers are doing it that way. They learned how from a circular prepared for free distribution by extension engineers at the Nebraska Agricultural College, Lincoln.

July 1, 1942

JAP NYLON MAY ENTER WORLD MARKETS -- AFTER THE WAR. (Scientific American, July) Japanese industrial chemists are already preparing for an industrial struggle to follow cessation of the shooting war. This is the conclusion that may be drawn from three articles published in Japanese, in the Journal of the Chemical Society of Japan, during 1940 and 1941. The author tells how he analyzed nylon. After he had determined how the molecules were put together, he duplicated them and then made modifications. This procedure might give Japanese textile factories the means to compete to great advantage with nylon mills in this country and Europe. Japan has persistently refused to enter into any patent treaty with any foreign country. If Japan goes into the nylon business, the silk industry, already hard hit first by rayon and then by the cessation of American silk purchases even before the outbreak of war, may never come to full revival. Silk may again become what it was in the Middle Ages and early modern times -- a luxury for the rich.

PLENTY OF VANILLA FLAVORING FOR U.S. (Foreign Commerce Weekly, June 20) Thanks to our research chemists, there will be vanilla flavoring aplenty despite sharp curtailment in import supplies of vanilla beans.... The flavoring agent of the vanilla bean is vanillin. It occurs naturally in that product, but its synthetic counterpart is obtainable from other sources, some of them practically inexhaustible.... Substantial quantities of the natural product will come from Mexico. The rest of our requirements will be produced in the United States. Our production facilities are ample. Even before the outbreak of war in Europe we were producing large quantities of vanillin. At that time five plants in various parts of the country were turning out more than 600,000 pounds per annum....

While science has made us independent of foreign sources of vanilla, interest in the vanilla bean will not wane. All vanilla beans which become available to the American market will be sought, and particularly the high-grade qualities produced in Mexico.

FARMERS NEED NO PRIORITY FOR MOST CONSTRUCTION ITEMS. (War Letter for Agriculture, June 22) Farmers who have applied for authorization and priority assistance to construct buildings under the WPB order restricting new farm construction to projects costing less than \$1,000 without special permission, can safely continue with their building plans when they receive approval for construction even if they fail to obtain priority assistance. Lack of priority assistance may make it necessary to omit part of the equipment desired. While at present the shipment of lumber from mills is frozen, this does not affect mill shipments of lumber for building farm storage or supplies of lumber in dealers' hands.

Farmers need no priorities to purchase nails, ordinary sizes of pipe, hardware, and similar items in the hands of retailers, since dealers obtain the necessary priority assistance directly from WPB. In ordinary cases priority assistance will not be given to farmers for metal roofing. A recent order limits the manufacture of metal roofing for general sale to repair and maintenance only; farmers need no priority assistance to obtain metal roofing for these purposes. Likewise, farmers need no priority assistance to obtain such barn equipment as stanchions and water bowls, since the priority on the materials is given to the manufacturer. Whether the farmer is able to get these items depends on whether his local dealer is able to obtain them.

July 1, 1942

RAKES FOR WINDROWING ONIONS. (Farm Journal, July) Side Delivery Rakes were used for windrowing onions at harvesting time around Lansing, Illinois, last summer to overcome labor shortage. The saving was as much as \$25 an acre. Rakes with extra teeth (put in by the dealer) brought the onions (tops and all) together like hay. Down and back made a single windrow in the middle of each 14-foot bed (beds run the length of the field). Men forked the windrowed onions in bushel baskets. The onions were then put onto sieves, relieved of dirt and then put on trucks for hauling to the cleaning machinery. Formerly it took four men on each onion bed to gather onions, sift out dirt and then put them onto the truck. With the side delivery rakes one man could do more forking than four in the old way.

SEEDS UNDER LEND-LEASE. (Florists Exchange, June 27) At the 60th Annual Convention of the American Seed Trade Association the Lend-Lease Committee reported. "The vegetable seed division of the committee has had a very active year with frequent meetings in Chicago, New York and Washington, D.C. The scope of lend-lease has increased rapidly with the result that our Government is now the largest single customer of the American seed trade. Great Britain, Australia, Russia, and South Africa are now receiving lend-lease shipments and the inclusion of other countries is expected in the near future."....Chairman of Field Seeds of the Lend-Lease Committee, gave a brief report: "20,000,000 pounds of field seeds were purchased in the late winter or early spring. The future program is undecided; it depends on the survey made June 30 of available stocks on hand, what the new crops will bring forth and what the needs of the Allies are."

MOISTURE DAMAGE TO WHEAT THREATENS STORAGE FACILITIES. Chicago report to New York Times, June 29: While Congress continues to debate major provisions in the agricultural appropriation bill, harvesting of the new winter wheat crop is progressing and the first flow of grain to market is under way with promise that the current trickle will become a mighty flood that will engulf all available storage space quickly....The quality of the winter wheat crop is said to be deteriorating and it is feared there will be much wet grain that must be conditioned before it is eligible for Government loans. It is estimated it takes storage room equal to two bushels to handle one bushel that has to be reconditioned, and elevator men claim that in view of the crowded condition of elevators at present the receipt of any material amount of wet wheat would be a calamity. Grain that has excessive moisture content is not eligible for Government loans owing to its poor keeping quality....Announcement that the supply of hogs for the 1942-43 season would establish a new high record has attracted attention to a report issued recently by Iowa economists which stated that up to 25,000,000 bushels of wheat might have to be fed monthly.

OSNABURG FOR NURSERY STOCK. (Southern Florist, June 26) Osnaburg, a cotton product which was counted upon as a wrapper for nursery stock, is now the subject of another WPB order which prohibits manufacturers from selling except on defense orders. However, short lengths and second grade stuff up to 6 percent of total production will be available.

July 1, 1942

ATLANTIC SEAWEED REPLACES JAP AGAR. (Weekly Science Page, Science Service, June 28 - July 4) War has given new value to two kinds of seaweed that grow along American coasts. One is a giant kelp, from which products are derived that will at least partly replace the lost Japanese import source of agar. Agar is a vegetable gelatin, used in bacteriological laboratory work, medicine, and certain industries. Research work of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is still on an experimental basis. The other seaweed use has long been a going affair. It is the collection of Irish moss or carrageen, a kind of red seaweed, used for purposes ranging from ice cream to medicine and shoepolish. It is collected mainly along the Massachusetts coast. In 1939, all the Irish moss collected had a value of only \$24,000. Last year the crop was worth \$100,000.

ENOUGH FOOD TO ASSURE ADEQUATE DIET THROUGH 1943. (Science Service release, June 20) "There will certainly be enough food to assure everyone of a reasonably adequate diet through the rest of this year and 1943," Oris V. Wells, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, told members of the American Home Economics Association at their meeting in Boston recently. This would be true, he said, in spite of the fact that American farmers are faced with the "difficult task" of producing enough food to "maintain domestic food consumption at about its average level in the United States as well as to supply the quantities of several foods that are needed for lend-lease shipment."

We here in the United States have been eating about the same total amount of food each year since 1909, although we have made several significant shifts within the total amount. We eat fewer potatoes and less of cereal products, especially flour and cornmeal. We have been eating more sugar, increasing our consumption of this chiefly between 1920 and 1925. We have been eating about the same amounts of eggs, butter and meat each year, but have been taking more condensed milk, ice cream and cheese, and following World War I we began to drink more fluid milk and cream. We have eaten about the same quantities of fruit, but are now eating more citrus fruits and fewer apples, and we have been eating more vegetables during the past 20 years.

EMERGENCY FARM COURSES IN CALIFORNIA. (San Diego Poultry Journal, June 10) Emergency food production courses designed particularly for adults interested in agricultural job opportunities will be offered on the Davis campus of the University of California during the academic year beginning August 10. The courses will include a one-year curriculum and special eight and sixteen-week courses dealing with production and preservation of vegetables; deciduous fruits and grape culture; and greenhouse and nursery work. Further information on the emergency courses may be obtained from The Recorder, College of Agriculture, Davis.

AUSTRIAN SCIENCE ASSOCIATION. (Science, June 26) Nature states that an Association of Austrian Engineers, Chemists and Scientific Workers in Great Britain has recently been formed. The main activities of the association will be to assist members in their professional work and interests, to represent them with the authorities, to promote contact and relations with British colleagues and to form a link with British scientific and technical institutions.

The Daily Digest

LIBRARY
RECEIVED

★ JUL 14 1942 ★

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Prepared by the Press Service for the use of USDA employees. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department of Agriculture.

Washington, D.C., July 2, 1942

SECRETARY SPEAKS FRIDAYS ON BLUE NETWORK. Department employees who have portable radios in their offices, or who go home for lunch, have an opportunity to listen to Secretary Wickard on Fridays over the Blue Network, at 12:30 p.m. EWT. The Secretary will continue this series during the summer on the National Farm and Home Hour, commenting on wartime happenings affecting farmers and homemakers.

FERTILIZER CONSUMPTION IN 1941. (The American Fertilizer, June 6)
A new high point was reached in 1941 in the amount of commercial fertilizer used by American farmers. Distribution by commercial producers, according to the annual summary prepared by the National Fertilizer Association, amounted to 8,400,000 tons representing an increase of 7 percent over 1940. The previous peak in commercial sales was in 1930, when they totaled 8,222,000 tons. This figure was nearly reached in 1937, with sales amounting to 8,200,000 tons. While the quantity distributed by the fertilizer industry in 1941 was only moderately above the 1937 tonnage, total fertilizer consumption was 1,018,000 tons greater last year than it was in 1937. This was due in large part to the sharp increase in the amount of fertilizer distributed by Government agencies. The proportion of total tonnage accounted for by the activities of TVA and AAA has been rising steadily.

For several years the market for fertilizer has been widening and becoming more diversified. That trend continued in 1941. Commercial sales last year were 191,000 tons greater than in 1930. The amount of fertilizer used on cotton was 647,000 tons less, so the amount used on crops other than cotton (sold by commercial producers) was 838,000 tons greater in 1941 than in 1930. There has been a particularly sharp increase in the use of fertilizer on grasslands, reflecting the educational activities of the industry and of Government agencies. There has also been a substantial increase in the amount used on fruits and vegetables.

SWISS TRUCKING SERVICE IN SPAIN. (Foreign Commerce Weekly, June 20)
Owing to the shortage of rolling stock in Portugal and Spain and the run-down condition of the railways in the latter country, Switzerland entered into an agreement with those countries for the reconditioning of 400 freight cars, 200 in each country, to be devoted exclusively to the transportation of vital Swiss goods. Even these measures were insufficient, and a Swiss-owned trucking service, "Auto-transit," was established from the Portuguese border to Canfranc on the Spanish-French frontier. With a fleet of 19 trucks, this company transported during the last 4 months of 1941 almost 2,5000 tons of freight, principally foodstuffs and essential raw materials.

July 2, 1942

ENLIST IN THE VACATION CORPS. (U.S.D.A. folder by this title)

This summer there isn't going to be any vacation for millions of Americans -- for soldiers and sailors -- for flyers and marines -- for workmen in factories -- for farmers on farms. America is at war. And we're just beginning to fight. Used to be just a few soldiers did the fighting. But not any more. This is total war. Know what it means? Just what it says -- everybody's in the war -- everybody fights. Some fight with airplanes -- some fight with tanks -- others with guns -- some with ships -- some fight with tractors and plows on the land -- others fight with press drills and lathes -- fight on assembly lines in factories -- with furnaces in steel mills -- BUT EVERYBODY FIGHTS in total war.

There's an Army that needs you. It doesn't have any special uniforms. You won't win any medals. There won't be any flags flying for you. But you'll sure be in the fight. Soldiers can't fight without food. To supply our millions of fighting men, American farmers must produce more this year than ever before. Talk about 60 thousand airplanes -- how about 125 BILLION pounds of milk -- or 4 BILLION 200 million dozen eggs -- or 83 million pigs -- or cultivating 95 million acres of corn. That's a production job, too. It's got to be done -- it's part of the war to be won.

PLANTS, LIKE STEEL, REQUIRE CHEMICALS. (Science News Letter, June 27)

Healthy plants, like good steel, need the addition of minute amounts of a number of chemical elements. Some of them are the same as those required for modern steel making, including manganese, molybdenum and copper. The story of these "micro-nutrients" was told by D.R. Hoagland, University of California, in his address as president of the Pacific Division, American Association for the Advancement of Science. The need of plants for these minute traces of certain elements was unknown until a few years ago. Of most of them, only a few parts in a million of soil solution are needed to maintain plant health, yet without them the plant sickens and perhaps dies. Lack of some of these elements produces plant diseases that might formerly have been ascribed to the attack of sub-microscopic viruses. Most soils have sufficient quantities of the micro-nutrient elements for all practical purposes, but where they are lacking it is important to detect which ones are short and to remedy the defect.

WOOD TECHNOLOGY. (Scientific American, July) Unique -- there's no other book like this in the English language. It digs more deeply into the subject of wood, and covers that subject from more aspects, than any other available work. The author is Senior Wood Physicist at the United States Forest Products Laboratory (Madison, Wis.)....No significant feature pertaining to wood has been omitted, and much of the information presented is new. Few will be the instances in which the owner and student of this compact, meaty, technical -- but not abstrusely technical -- work will not be able to deepen his scientific insight into wood.

SUGAR FOR CANNING, PRESERVING. (Farm Journal, July) A survey made by this magazine shows that 500 typical farm women used an average of 125 pounds of sugar for canning and preserving last year. They used only 54 pounds for canning fruit, but 19 pounds for pickles and relishes (for which no sugar at all is available this year), and 52 for jams and jellies.

July 2, 1942

HOW BRITISH PEOPLE ARE FED. (London report in American Medical Association Journal, June 20) There are fifteen hundred local offices or local ministries of food. Some idea of their work is given by a typical borough in the London area. It is partly residential and partly industrial and has a population of 120,000 which is served by 1,000 food shops and 600 catering establishments. There have been 85,000 changes of address, and each takes about seven minutes to deal with. During the year the office has had to issue 51,000 emergency cards for persons temporarily entering or leaving a district or who have lost their ration books. In addition, 360,000 ordinary ration books have been issued.

In a normal week never fewer than 4,000 persons pass through the office with complaints or inquiries. During the last three months there have been 3,000 applications from persons wishing to change their retailers. Every person must be registered with one retailer, from whom alone they can obtain rationed foods. To feed the 120,000 persons in the borough, the local food officer has to make available every week 6,000 pounds of meat, 20 tons of bacon, 20 tons of margarine, 12 tons of cooking fats, 46 tons of sugar, $4\frac{1}{2}$ tons of cheese, 151,000 eggs (when they can be got) and 60,000 gallons of milk. The food offices are ready for any emergency. If one occurred from extensive destruction in an air raid, the emergency feeding scheme could be put into complete operation at three hours' notice.

FOOD FOR FIGHTERS. Article by this title, in July Scientific American discusses food dehydration. All vegetables contain large amounts of water, and water is heavy and bulky. Thus, when a food ship pulls into some distant outpost, bearing fresh or canned vegetables, nine tenths of the load is water, which is costly both in ship space and time to transport, and utterly without value as a food....Researchers of the United States Department of Agriculture at Los Angeles and Albany, Calif., are seeing to it now that these foods will reach the fighting fronts bearing virtually all the food values of fresh vegetables....Key to the method is a combination steam bath and dehydration process. Here garden-fresh cabbage and carrots become brittle shells in two hours. Two large heads of cabbage, enough to feed 20 men, are compressed, after dehydration, into a disk small enough to fit in the hand....Civilians will get to know these foods better, too, as time goes on and transportation facilities take on heavier defense loads. Although most popular now in the nation's markets is a little package containing a scoop of chicken fat, some noodles, and pieces of dehydrated vegetables, which becomes a quart of noodle soup after the addition of water and a few minutes' boiling, you can also get several other soup-making mixtures and such individual items as potato shreds, onion flakes, carrot cuts, pea and bean powders, tomato pieces and flakes, and spinach and celery flakes. In each case, all you need do is add water, heat, and eat. They'll increase in weight from eight to 40 times their dry weight as they take up water.

Don't let the word "dehydration" fool you into thinking you'll get tough, stringy, hard-shelled beans and carrots and peas and corn, when these vegetables are prepared by the modern method. True, dehydration means that nine tenths or more of the water is removed. Processes developed in the last few months do that, and more. After you rehydrate the vegetables in/your kitchen and simmer them a half-hour, they're practically as good as garden-fresh vegetables.

July 2, 1942

WAR FORCES CUT IN MILK DELIVERIES. (Producers' Guide, June) Sunday retail milk deliveries are to be discontinued in Syracuse, N.Y. for the duration of the war. Leading distributors after conferences on how to conserve gasoline and rubber decided this would be better than the alternate day deliveries. One company already is using horse-drawn vehicles.... Proposal to curtail home milk deliveries to every other day of the week has been abandoned by distributors in New York City. The action was taken over the protest of Mayor LaGuardia....Milk drivers of Albany have agreed to inaugurate the "skip-a-day" system for milk deliveries to homes. The union men said "there was nothing else to do" in face of the Government's request for curtailment of gasoline and tires.

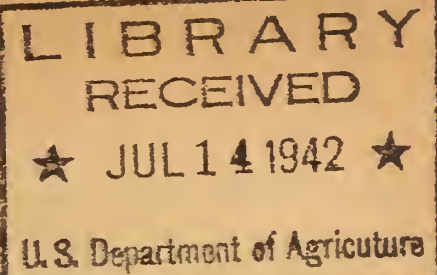
MANPOWER DIRECTIVES COVER AGRICULTURE. (War Letter for Agriculture, June 29) Eight directives on manpower, including agricultural needs, have been issued by the War Manpower Commission. Two of the directives, addressed to the Secretary of Agriculture and leaders of other interested agencies, concern the housing and transportation of additional migratory farm workers essential to the FIF harvest. The Secretary of Agriculture is instructed to direct the gathering of information regarding housing facilities in areas which will require non-local agricultural workers and to make certain that additional labor camp facilities are established where necessary.

The transportation directive calls on the Department of Agriculture, U.S. Employment Service, and other agencies having information on movement of workers, to transmit information regarding transportation needs to the Office of Defense Transportation. The Employment Service is instructed to enlarge its activities so as to insure an adequate supply of farm workers, and not to recruit agricultural workers for "any agricultural employment in which the wages or conditions of work are less advantageous to the worker than those prevailing for similar work in the locality."

BILLS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT. (CBF Digest of Proceedings of Congress, June 30) Farm Credit: H.R. 6315, which extends until July 1, 1944, the reduced interest rates on Federal land bank and Land Bank Commissioner loans, and includes contract and purchase-money mortgage transactions not to exceed an interest rate of 4%. Approved June 27, 1942. In connection with this bill, the President issued a statement favoring legislation "to so simplify the pattern of the system as to eliminate its present, inherent inefficiencies, and thereby relieve the Treasury of the recurrent burden of these unnecessary costs," and stating, "H.R. 6315 cannot...be regarded as more than a palliative." Surplus Commodities: H.J. Res. 311, providing for continuation of the F.S.C.C. as a U.S. agency for 3 years. Approved June 27, 1942.

TRANSFER OF SOILS INSPECTION. (Memorandum No. 1020, by Secretary Wickard, says in part: The Bureau of Plant Industry shall be fully responsible for all soils inspection and correlation work undertaken by the Department, including the work in such fields now being performed by the Soil Conservation Service.

The Daily Digest



Prepared by the Press Service for the use of USDA employees. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department of Agriculture.

Washington, D.C., July 3, 1942

CELLULAR RUBBER USED IN LIFE RAFTS. (Scientific American, July)

New lifesaving devices, made of the newly discovered cellular rubber, which has twice the buoyancy of cork, include a raft composed of a spider-like network of disks of the new material strung together with ropes, and self-lighting electric lamps which will float in the water beside victims of a sinking ship to guide rescuers at night. An advantage of its construction is the ease with which it may be grasped in the water. It is of particular significance in torpedo sinking because it can be thrown overboard when there is not time to launch a regular lifeboat or raft. The new form of hard cellular rubber is also being used as insulation under decks of mosquito type torpedo boats, and the soft material in life jackets for the United States Engineers. Also, a fire resistant, hard cellular rubber is being used as supports of self-sealing gas tanks in airplanes.

GRASSLAND RESEARCH IN GREAT BRITAIN. (Science, June 26) The appointment of Sir George Stapledon as the director of the Ministry of Agriculture Grassland Improvement Station, Dodwell, marks a break in a long period of pioneer service which may be said to have revolutionized the current methods of grassland management. For the past twenty-five years his attention has been devoted to various ways in which the grasslands of Great Britain could be improved and better use made of the great acreage of unprofitable and neglected pastures. The importance of varieties and strains was recognized, and geneticists and plant breeders on his staff concentrated their attention on the production of special types of herbage plants needed for specific purposes. Varieties of grasses and clovers have been bred for earliness or lateness, for leaf or stem production, for spreading or erect types, to provide seed to meet different requirements. Parallel with the plant-breeding work, problems of management were investigated, particularly in relation to the effects of grazing. Much progress has been made, both on the hill pastures and in connection with ley farming, in which poor permanent pasture is improved by ploughing up and reseeded.

DANES USE PAPER ROPE. (Foreign Commerce Weekly, June 20) Rope without hemp fails to stop the Danes. They simply turn to paper, woven into weather- and water-proof cordage. Even sailing vessels and yachts may find use for the "ersatz" rope. Reaping machines also have demonstrated the practicability of paper-cord as a twine substitute. Paper-rope is not new in Denmark, since the First World War introduced paper as a substitute for hemp. Denmark ordinarily imports all its fiber supplies, but shipping now is unavailable.

July 3, 1942

SCALD DRIED VEGETABLES BEFORE STORING. (San Diego Poultry Journal, June 10) Home dried vegetables should be scalded thoroughly but never cooked before being stored, Dr. W.V. Cruess, head of the fruit products division of the California College of Agriculture, says. The scalding is necessary to retain the vitamin content, flavor, color, and texture of the vegetables. They are then dried, and in the bone-dry state will keep indefinitely in good condition in sealed, insect-proof containers. The dried vegetables can be cooked readily. However, if the dried vegetables are cooked before being stored they may spoil.

OUR WAY OF LIFE IS RURAL. (Science News Letter, June 27) The American way of life which we are defending is in many of its most basic human manifestations still the rural American way, Dr. Adolph S. Tomars, of the College of the City of New York, told the Eastern Sociological Society meeting in Asbury Park, N.J. "Again and again, we have seen rural prejudices and biases serve as stumbling-blocks for progressive measures, impeding the development of new collective social machinery and social reforms important in peace time and even more important in wartime. Here our rural survivals are a source of backwardness in facing the problem of war and war morale in an urban civilization.

"But we should recognize another side of this picture. Some of our complex urban and intellectualized values must recede into the background in wartime and may even become sources of weakness in morale, while many of the simpler rural elements, especially the rugged values of our frontier heritage, will come to the fore and become sources of strength. Thus we may confront a crowning paradox of our urban world. It may well be that in the severe ordeal before us, it will be the rural element surviving in our culture that will play a major role in seeing us through the crisis."

SAYS BRITISH FARMERS HAVE EDGE ON TOWNSPEOPLE. (Wallaces' Farmer and Iowa Homestead, June 27) "The farmer in Great Britain is getting along better than any other group," says Paul Appleby, Under-Secretary of Agriculture and former Iowan, who has recently come back from a stay of several months in England. "He's getting better prices than usual, and, unlike many other folks, hasn't had to shut up shop, move a hundred miles to a new location, and then go into a totally new line of work." But the British farmer has his troubles too. He is doing more plowing, more cultivating, with less hired labor and with unskilled labor. He has only older men and "land girls" for help. Yet he has increased livestock production 8 percent since the war started. Another complication, besides bombs and black-outs, is Home Guard service. Every able-bodied man (and that means anybody up to 60, if he can still move around) is supposed to be in the Home Guard. This requires 48 hours of training a month. The British farmer not only has to farm, but must train to fight.

"COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION SERVICE." (Farm Journal, July) In New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, Grange League Federation officials are working with local groups to set up Community Transportation Service. This organization expects to have between 1,000 and 1,500 trucks of 5-ton capacity or more registered for service by July 1. Under the agreement, owners pledge to make their trucks available to carry feed and other farm supplies in from rail-siding when needed. The carrier rate will be fixed by agreement between the organization and the owner.

July 3, 1942

WAR DRAFTS FARM HORSES AND MULES. (BAE -- EXT FLIER -- 6) War has called farm horses and mules to the colors. With steel and rubber and fuel needed for planes and tanks and guns, farmers are going to get less machinery than they bought last year. And with Uncle Sam calling for the largest crop year in history, farmers will want to make the best possible use of every horse and mule. We have today fewer than 14 million horses and mules, about 12 million of which are old enough to work. We also have about 1,450,000 tractors on farms, and more than 1,000,000 motor-trucks. What we must do is to keep both horses and machines busy, and to use each type of power for the purposes for which it is best suited.

One of the most important things the American farmer can do right now is to put every horse, every mule, and every machine to the jobs for which it is best fitted. Some of the jobs that horses may well be called upon to help with more and more are preparing the land, cultivating, and harvesting. They may even be used more than they have been to haul products to market and supplies from town. You may have some horses, and your neighbor may have a tractor. Why not get together with your neighbor and work out a plan for keeping his machine and your horses busy?

IMPORTANCE OF DRIED FOODSTUFFS. (London report in American Medical Association Journal, June 13) In a series of lectures on planned nutrition in wartime, J.C. Drummond called attention to the importance of dried foodstuffs. Recently the Low Temperature Research Station at Cambridge (England) produced experimental batches of dried vegetables containing about 80 percent of the original vitamin content of the fresh vegetable. The vitamin loss from exposure to air had been prevented by packing the dried product in an inert gas. Thus dried vegetables could be kept indefinitely at the full vitamin value of the material as put in the container.

In the case of meat the Cambridge experiments resulted in a product which, on addition of water, was reconstituted so as to be practically indistinguishable from a cooked mincemeat. The product also maintained its character for several years when kept in a gas pack and was a great advance on anything heretofore produced as dried meat. A combination of dried vegetables and meat in the form of powder has also been produced and on addition of hot water gives a palatable soup. Prof. Drummond thinks that the drying of foodstuffs will become as important as the canning industry has been during the last thirty years. The dried product, when reconstituted, is similar in palatability to the fresh material, while the vitamin content and other materials specially valuable in wartime nutrition are preserved.

OPA BROADENS CONTROLS OVER MIXED FEED. (War Letter for Agriculture, June 29) Broadening of the term "mixed feed" for animals has been announced by OPA in order to bring under the general price ceiling all mixed feed resulting from the mixing or blending of byproducts from a single vegetable, plant, or other agricultural product, including feeds such as molasses, beet pulp, and mixtures of cottonseed hulls and meals. Previously the only mixed feeds subject to the price regulation were feeds made from products of a single grain. Screenings -- the materials removed in cleaning grain or seed -- also were brought under the regulation. Screenings are used in mixed feed and are sold in competition with other feed ingredients which are subject to price regulation.

July 3, 1942

HORSES, MULES SHOULD BE WELL CARED FOR. (BAE -- EXT FLIER -- 6)

If horses and mules are to work harder for victory, they must be well cared for. It means warming up your horses slowly at the beginning of each day's work. Then it pays to see that harnesses are kept in good repair and that all parts, especially the collars, fit comfortably. It means giving them a little water and salt often, rather than too much at any one time. It means checking their teeth to be sure that they are in condition to chew grain and hay, and keeping their feet in good shape by regular trimming and shoeing. It means grooming them at night to get rid of body waste, for then they will rest better. Internal parasites such as bots should be kept under control by preventive measures and medicinal treatment, and the animals should be kept free of lice and mites. Above all, you know that good care includes good feeding.

COTTON AND BURLAP BAG MARKUP ADJUSTED. (War Letter for Agriculture, June 29) Dealer markups in new bags of cotton and burlap have been adjusted by the OPA and a clarification has been made of the term "new bags." The change allows for the variation in markups customarily charged by resellers according to the type of bag and the section of the country where sold. Dealers are permitted by the amendment to add to the "delivered cost" a margin equal to the highest markup, in cents per bag, charged during March, 1942. Originally a uniform 3 percent markup was allowed; now a markup is permitted on each resale necessary in the distributive process. The "new bag" definition clarifies the situation as to picking sacks and other containers not used for packaging a commodity for transportation or storage. Foreign-made bags are exempted.

VITAMIN C AND WOUND HEALING. (American Medical Association Journal, June 13) Many factors investigated in recent years, including vitamins, have been claimed to influence the healing of wounds. Attention has been drawn to vitamin C in particular....With the newer methods of estimating more accurately the ascorbic acid content of tissues, tests and experiments have been devised aimed at the accurate evaluation of the role of vitamin C in wound healing....Observations imply that under usual conditions of diet and absorption the average person possesses a high enough ascorbic acid content in tissue for normal wound healing. The practical question, however, is the determination, by a simple method, of which persons require supplementary vitamin C administration preoperatively or postoperatively. The answer to this question is not yet clear.

FIRST CATTLE SHOW FOR "ABSENT SIRE" CALVES SCHEDULED. (Producers' Guide, May) Springfield, Ill. -- For the first time in history a dairy calf show will be held with entries limited to calves whose sire was not present at time of their conception. Illinois will shortly exhibit dairy calves dropped as a result of artificial insemination. This is the first exclusive test tube calf show ever staged in America.

BETTER MILK BOTTLES. (Science News Letter for June 27) Improved glass-making methods have produced milk bottles weighing one-fourth less than the old fashioned bottle and averaging 45% more round trips before they become unusable.

The Daily Digest

LIBRARY
RECEIVED
★ JUL 14 1942 ★
U. S. Department of Agriculture

Prepared by the Press Service for the use of USDA employees. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department of Agriculture.

Washington, D.C., July 6, 1942

WASTEPAPER. (Article by this title in Harvard Business Review, Summer Number) Although paperboard mills had more than sufficient quantities of wastepaper in the spring of 1942, the abundant supply should be considered temporary. In the first place, collection drives undoubtedly are bringing on the market quantities of wastepaper stored in attics and basements, wastepaper which will not be available in such quantities until long after the war is over. Secondly, as civilian consumption of paper is curtailed, less quantities of wastepaper will be accumulated for eventual shipment to consuming mills. And finally, the present campaign to use paper sparingly will tend to decrease the amount of wastepaper which will be available for conversion to paperboard or other paper products.

If wastepaper becomes scarce, pressure will be brought to bear by dealers to raise the ceiling prices in order to pay for the cost of collection. As long as the public cooperates with the government in its drive to salvage wastepaper, however, it will probably be unnecessary to make any upward adjustment in the price schedule. Although temporarily the quantity of wastepaper in the market is sufficient to keep consuming mills operating, it is still a scarce and vital material for our War Production Program. Wastepaper must be saved and made available to paperboard mills. Any relaxation in the drive to salvage and collect wastepaper at any time during the war will seriously hamper the War Production program and the battle against the Axis powers.

MIGRATORY FARM WORKERS GET GASOLINE TO REACH JOBS. (Victory, June 23) Migratory farm workers, now engaged in harvest activities in many sections of the East Coast gasoline rationed area, may obtain whatever supply of gasoline they need to travel from job to job, OPA says. Rationing regulations, OPA pointed out, provide for any supplementary rations needed for cars that must be driven in pursuit of a gainful occupation. Many migrant workers, like thousands of workers on war construction jobs throughout the East, need their cars to travel from one place of employment to another. Application for additional supplies of gasoline for such travel should be made at a local rationing board.

CANADA SEEKS MORE SHEEP. (The National Provisioner, June 27) A campaign to increase flocks of sheep in the province of New Brunswick, Canada, and appreciably increase wool production is being sponsored by the provincial minister of agriculture, according to the Department of Commerce. Wool production in Canada totaled only 20,000,000 pounds during 1941, while consumption during the same period was in excess of 109,000,000 pounds.

July 6, 1942

FOOD VALUE OF BEER. (American Medical Association Journal, June 13)
British opponents of the brewing industry have called attention to the fact that an appreciable percentage of all available English grain is now being used for the production of beer. They allege that this grain would be of greater social value if used for the raising of poultry or pigs. The brewers of England have countered by quoting evidence published by nutritional experts of London University, that the food value of beer is more than half that of the grain and other material used in its production, while pig meat has less than one fifth the food value of the same materials if used in raising swine. Moreover, 25 percent of the food value of the grain used in brewing is returned to the farmer in the form of brewers' grains, malt culms or yeast, foods especially high in vitamin content and nutritive value if used in the animal industry. The food controller finds "no evidence that beer is doing anything to increase crime or bad health, or to reduce the output of munitions." It is concluded by the British cabinet that "it is in the public interest that the production of beer should continue at the present amount" (4 percent of all available grain).

FIVE NATIONS SET UP WHEAT POOL FOR WAR-TORN AREAS. (Washington Post, July 2) The United States, Great Britain, Canada, Australia, and Argentina will create a wheat pool of not less than 100 million bushels for the relief of famine in war-stricken areas, the State Department announced. The decision was embodied in an agreement looking toward control of prices, production, and exports of wheat. Canada and the United Kingdom are to furnish 25 million bushels of wheat or flour to the relief pool and the United States is to provide 50 million bushels. These nations, with Argentina, would furnish additional supplies as required, on a basis to be worked out by the governments involved. The agreement is designed as the first step toward the conclusion, after the war, of a comprehensive wheat agreement between countries concerned in international wheat trade. It also provides that as soon as conditions warrant, the United States shall convene a general world wheat conference.

PROGRESS IN DEHYDRATED BUTTER. (American Butter Review, June)
Recent advices reaching this country from New Zealand and Australia indicate that encouraging progress is being made through experimentation in developing a type of butter that is moisture-free or nearly so. Butter from which practically all moisture has been removed would unquestionably fill a definite need of the day. With shortage of refrigeration facilities on the vessels and other carriers which transport the output of our creameries to our armed forces in all sections of the world and to our allies under the Lend-Lease program, a dehydrated product could be delivered and held until use in much better average condition and quality than that with the usual moisture content. And of course through the near elimination of water, the gross weight would be lessened as well.

FOOD FROM GAME. (Science News Letter, June 27) Over 215,000 tons of food are represented by the game animals, game birds, and game fish taken by sportsmen in one year.

July 6, 1942

CARGO PLANES OF THE FUTURE. (Scientific American, July) Several airlines this year so far have received revenues of over half a million dollars from transportation of express and freight, and mail cargo revenues over a number of lines total several million dollars annually. Yet commercial transportation of cargo by air in the United States is still in its very early stages. Charles P. Graddick, of United Air Lines, at the annual meeting of the Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences, said not only must we have special aircraft, but other facilities as well. In some of the largest cities special cargo airports should be constructed and at most ordinary airports space should be provided for freight warehouse facilities. Warehouses will be needed for temporary storage of goods awaiting transfer from one airline to another. Space will be needed for railway express agencies and for freight forwarders. Our ordinary hangars may have to be modified to include movable platforms, storage space, hoists, derricks, tractors, and so on. Undoubtedly rates will be a large factor in determining the volume of air cargo. There is a limit to what shippers can and will pay for speed. At the present time, air express rates are from four to seven times rail express rates and correspondingly higher than rail freight rates. A great effort, therefore, will be necessary to reduce ton-mile operating costs of air cargo planes.

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES. (Foreign Commerce Weekly, June) The Governing Board of the Pan American Union has approved the organization of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, a continental research and experimental station to coordinate agricultural science in all the republics of this hemisphere. A report of the Inter-American Committee on Tropical Agriculture calls for the location of the principal office in Washington, with supplementary offices in the other American countries. The governing unit of the Institute will be members of the Governing Board of the Pan American Union, who^{are} also diplomatic representatives of the Latin American nations and the Secretary of State of the United States.

Each American Republic represented in the Institute is to have the right to appoint an agricultural expert to be its representative in a Technical Advisory Council which will meet at the field headquarters. The general objective of the Institute is to encourage agricultural education and training in the Americas. It is expected that the Institute will set up experiment stations, farms, ranches, laboratories, and educational centers in many or all of the American Republics to carry out agricultural programs which have already proved feasible and also to test new proposals.

The location of the Institute has not yet been determined. Vast, productive tracts of land have been offered as the site by Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, and Venezuela. Technical experts from the USDA have visited the proffered locations, to determine which will best meet the purposes of the Institute, and their report, including a recommendation for the proper site, has been submitted to the Inter-American Committee on Tropical Agriculture for consideration.

INFORMATION IN ADVERTISING. (Article by this title in Harvard Business Review, Summer Number) There is an articulate and widespread demand for informative advertising. Advertising contains much more in-

July 6, 1942

formation than is generally assumed to be the case by consumers. Certain kinds of information held essential to intelligent consumer buying are lacking in advertising. Further research is needed to determine the exact nature of this information by product, where these facts should be given, and how they should be presented. The sales promotion effort as a whole must be considered. The war economy gives substantial impetus to the interest in informative advertising.

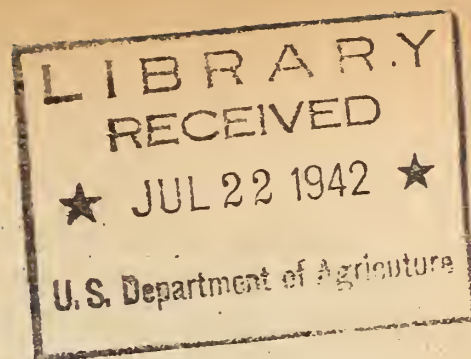
COFFEE SITUATION IN BRAZIL. (Foreign Commerce Weekly, June 20) Opinion in Brazil is that the 1942-43 coffee crop for the State of Sao Paulo will be slightly in excess of 8,000,000 bags of 60 kilograms each. The estimate for the rest of the country remains at 7,000,000 bags. Official figures by the Departamento Nacional de Cafe show 273,456 bags of coffee eliminated between March 1 and April 15, 1942, bringing the total of coffee destroyed to 75,501,084 bags. The shortage of shipping continues to affect the coffee market in Brazil. The ban of shipments to Santos was lifted and 325,549 bags came into the port during April.

CANADA BOOSTS CHEESE EXPORTS. (American Butter Review, June) Canada has agreed to deliver 125,000,000 pounds of cheese to the United Kingdom in the twelve months ending March 31, 1943, compared with 112,000,000 pounds for the preceding year. Canadian cheese production for the first four months of 1942 was $3\frac{1}{2}$ times as large in the corresponding months of 1941, and butter production was $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent smaller. The contract cheese price in the new agreement with the United Kingdom is 20 cents per pound at Montreal, compared with 14.4 cents in the old agreement. But the Dominion and the Ontario and Quebec provincial governments paid subsidies to encourage cheese production, so that the total return on cheese delivered at Montreal for export was 19 cents for 93-score and 20 cents for 94-score. This year on the same basis Ontario cheese will bring 23 to 24 cents.

POPULATION CHANGES AND THEIR EFFECTS. (Harvard Business Review, Summer Number) Within the past 15 years an increasing amount of attention has been given to the economic effects of the declining rate of population growth. Rather than population's pressing on the means of subsistence, a tendency which economists had long accepted as normal, it now appears that the cessation of population growth may cause far more real and immediate problems. It is the purpose of this article to examine some of the possible economic consequences of anticipated changes in the size and age composition of the population, directing attention to their effect upon the efficiency and mobility of labor, unemployment, and the social security program in the United States.

PRIORITY RATING RAISED FOR FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PACKERS. (War Letter for Agriculture, June 29) Fruit and vegetable packers have been assigned higher preference ratings by WPB for material and machinery to prepare for an anticipated increase in operations when 1942 crops are ready for canning. This will aid some 3,000 canneries to handle the forthcoming fruit and vegetable pack, expected to be 15 percent larger than a year ago.

The Daily Digest



Prepared by the Press Service for the use of USDA employees. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department of Agriculture.

Washington, D.C., July 7, 1942

EYES ON SWEET POTATOES. (Article by this title in The Rotarian, June) The U.S.D.A. process for making starch from sweet potatoes has been perfected so rapidly that production at the Laurel, Miss., plant has increased by leaps and bounds. In 1934 the plant turned out 140,000 pounds of starch; by 1937 the output had gone to 600,000 pounds; by 1939 to 2,700,000. This year officials hope to reach a production of 4 million pounds. Already Laurel starch in many cases commands a premium -- and since the Japanese blockaded the Far East it has climbed 20 percent in price, which means new profits for both the plant and the growers. It is used in textile mills to size cloth, in laundries to gloss collars and shirt fronts, in breads to retain moisture. Makers of pie filling are enthusiastic about it; so are manufacturers of such dissimilar products as candy and adhesives.

Through the Laurel plant the Government has pioneered in an immensely important agricultural field which private enterprise is now developing. Only recently the huge United States Sugar Corporation announced plans to build a 2½-million-dollar sweet-potato starch plant at Clewiston, Florida. Not only will the Clewiston plant produce a minimum of 40 million pounds of starch a year, but an immense tonnage of by-product stock feed as well. Officers connected with the United Fruit Company have been investigating sweet-potato dehydration work in Louisiana, and starch or feed plants are either under construction or being planned in Texas, Alabama, and Georgia. Already the investment in such facilities runs into the millions. And that means not only new jobs for hundreds of workers, but new work for tens of thousands of idle or unprofitable acres.

1942 LOCKER PLANT SURVEY IMPORTANT. (The Locker Operator, June) For the third successive year the Farm Credit Administration is conducting its exhaustive survey of all the frozen food locker plants in the United States. Questionnaires were mailed early in the year to every locker plant of record. In April a second request for information, together with another questionnaire, was mailed to all plants that had not made returns.

The frozen food locker industry has been asking for a certain amount of priority assistance. Many plants are filled to capacity and want to expand. Others, who have lost labor to the draft and war industries, want to buy labor saving machinery. Hundreds of communities without locker service would like to have its benefits. There is scarcely an item in equipment for locker plants that can be bought without a priority rating. It would help a great deal, say the key men in WPB, if more facts were definitely known about the locker industry. What is its volume in meat, vegetables, fruits, poultry? Just what can the locker industry do with the facilities it now has? How much more could it do with so much more?

July 7, 1942

FROZEN FOOD LOCKERS IN WAR EFFORT. (The Locker Operator, June)

You locker managers were strategic local leaders in peace time, but you can render even more important service in time of war. You are in a position not only to fit your own family into its productive place but also to give that same assistance to all your patrons. If a man is to maintain health, he must have proper food. Each grown person will need nearly a ton of food each year. Getting that much food is a major task. To have that much of the right kinds of food takes careful planning and hard efficient work. Food production and preservation are the locker operator's stock in trade. Anything that you can do to help your patrons plan, produce, preserve and use an ample, varied food supply is a direct contribution to the health of our people and to the vigor of our war effort.

U.S. NEEDS FARM EQUIPMENT DEALERS. (Editorial in Implement & Tractor, June 20) Many patriotic dealers have indicated in letters received that they are seeking means of increasing their contributions to the war effort, some expressing a belief that with present merchandise shortages they should seek other opportunity for national wartime service. The nation needs implement and tractor dealers as never before. Farmers are undertaking production totals in excess of any previous record. Normally this increased production would not be undertaken without from one-fourth to one-half billion dollars worth of new equipment. It must be accomplished by prolonging the life of older machines, in the hands of less experienced operators and therefore more subject to breakdown and need of repair.

Attainment of food production goals is imperative. There is no substitute for dealers' service shops, yet without them America's food supplies could easily become another instance of too little and too late. Implement and tractor dealers have unusual opportunities for serving their country in the present war emergency. Should any dealer feel that his training especially fits him for some other national service, even then he should not overlook the importance of his present business. Is there anyone to take his place should he withdraw from the industry? Will the farmers be able to get the parts and service they expect him to provide? Every implement and tractor business that closes its doors is a threat to the required farm production.

INTERNATIONAL SHOE HAS CONSERVATION PLAN. (Hide and Leather and Shoes, June 13) All divisions of the International Shoe Co., St. Louis, are meeting the government's request for leather conservation. They have adopted a woman's shoe construction plan which will save $33\frac{1}{3}$ percent of the former leather required, by eliminating heel breasting, covering heels with celluloid instead of leather, and removal of the extended leather sole under the heel. Among the more important conservation steps are also elimination of rubber cement or rubber-containing adhesives in all steps of shoe manufacturing and cartoning, use of more fibre in counters to replace a leather counter, and larger use of plastic substitutes for metal eyelets and trim.

MEAT BOARD DEVOTES PROGRAM TO VICTORY. (Butchers' Advocate, June 24) "In the endeavor to render the fullest possible service to the nation in this critical period of our history, the National Live Stock and Meat Board has dedicated its entire program of education and research to the all-

July 7, 1942

out victory effort," said R.C. Pollock, general manager of the board, in his report to the directors. Research projects approved by the National Research Council and supported by the board are at present under way at seven educational institutions, Universities of Arkansas, Chicago, Minnesota, Nebraska and Wisconsin, Cornell University, and Texas A. and M. College. "In addition to this nutrition research, our studies extend to other fields. At one educational institution we are carrying on a large quantity meat cookery study to throw light on group feeding problems. Still another involves a study of consumer meat preferences which will be of value in the preparation of educational material."

EGG DRIERS HOLD CONFERENCES. (American Egg & Poultry Review, June) Close to 300 members of the egg drying industry gathered in Chicago recently at the invitation of the Agricultural Marketing Administration, issued through the National Egg Products Association, to discuss various problems. Colonel Paul Logan of the U.S. Army addressed the meeting on "The Army as Your Customer." He surveyed the infant industry, mainly but a year and a half old, and forecast its future. During that brief space of time its production had gone from 30 million pounds of dried eggs to 250 million pounds, and with still greater potential capacity. Improvement in quality had progressed tremendously. Colonel Logan emphasized the point that the future of the industry depended, in his opinion, on the quality of product now being furnished the Army, calling attention to the fact that many of the veterans of World War I still remembered some of the canned "stuff" they got and weren't very enthusiastic about it. Future consumer acceptance is now in the making, hence quality plays a leading role in the post-war life of the industry. Ninety-five percent of the powdered egg purchased by the Army goes into the soldier's mess kit to be eaten as scrambled eggs and some eighteen million pounds will go overseas this year for Army consumption.

MEAT FOR BRITISH SOLDIERS. (The National Provisioner, June 27) Generally speaking, beef is the most popular meat with the British soldier, and he likes it well cooked. Mutton and pork are not so popular, although the latter is in great demand at Christmas. Britishers, as a whole, like their meat lean, and both of these meats carry too much fat for the general taste. Unlike practice in the American army, pork is seldom issued as a ration, and mutton is provided only because supplies are available and must, therefore, be used. A typical week's army ration of meat at present consists of supplies sufficient for five days of beef, one day of canned beef and one day of mutton. Roasts of every type are prepared, even in the field when conditions permit.

Constant experiments are being made to improve the army's meat supplies under all conditions. A recent line of development has been the production of dried meat, for use when fresh meat cannot be supplied. Experiments were made with "biltong," first used by the Boers in the South African war and consisting of strips of lean muscle tissue which were rapidly dried in the sun, then with South American "jerked" meat. These were found to be poor substitutes for fresh meat, both being tough and unpalatable. Recently experiments have been made to extract the moisture from meat on scientific principles, and satisfactory results have been obtained. A high vacuum is employed in one process. So far, it has not been possible to dry large

July 7, 1942

joints, but only small pieces and powder by these processes. However, these have proved to be palatable and nutritious and have been used in the making of soups, stews, pies, sausages and made-up dishes like meat loaf.

VOLUNTEERS TO HELP GUARD FORESTS AGAINST FIRE. (Victory, June 23)

To mobilize the manpower necessary to protect the Nation's forests against the hazards of forest fires during the war, the Office of Civilian Defense has established a Forest Fire Fighters Service of volunteers. Organized and developed through State and Local Defense Councils, the Forest Fire Fighters Service will function through cooperation of the Forest Service, the land management agencies of the Department of Interior and other established forest protection agencies. Members of the Forest Fire Fighters Service will be enrolled as units in the Civilian Defense Auxiliary groups and will be furnished with arm bands, identification cards and automobile plates for purposes of identification in an emergency.

Participating in the program will be the Forest Service, Indian Service, National Park Service, Grazing Service, General Land Office, Fish and Wild Life Service, State Forestry Departments and private protection associations. The possibility of incendiary bombing by enemy planes and the danger of sabotage enhance the normal seasonal hazards and make the menace of forest fires this year the greatest the country has ever faced.

VITAMIN LACK CAUSES LOSS OF FEATHER COLOR IN CHICKENS. (Science Service release, June 25)

Vitamin lack can cause color loss in feathers just as it causes color loss in hair, experiments at the University of California indicate. Researchers placed a number of black Minorca chicks on a vitamin-free diet, supplementing it with varying doses of the necessary vitamins, except that to one group they gave no pantothenic acid, and to another only a minimum amount of this member of the vitamin B complex. The no-pantothenic chicks developed colorless, often distorted feathers, while those with inadequate doses of the vitamin had colored feathers with a rather "washed-out" appearance. Details of the research are published in the current issue of Science.

CANADA COMPLETES DAIRY COMMITTEE. (American Butter Review, June)

The Preliminary Governing Board of the Inter-American Committee for the Dairy Industries (on which each nation in the Western Hemisphere is entitled to seven representatives, one each in the fields of public health, education, dairy husbandry, dairy processing, technological and economic research, consumer interest and government) has announced the selection in Canada by the Canadian National Membership of seven alternates to that country's membership body. Although seven countries have named representatives to the Inter-American Committee, only Canada and the United States have so far designated alternates to these groups.

SUBSTITUTES USED IN NORWEGIAN FOOTWEAR. (Hide and Leather and Shoes, June 13)

Paper uppers and wooden soles will be the footwear worn in Norway this summer if experiments now being carried on by shoe factories in that country are successful, says the U.S. Dept. of Commerce. A woven or so-called "textile" paper is being worked on which has sufficient strength for shoe purposes. It is attractive but its resistance to water is still a question.

LIBRARY
RECEIVED

★ JUL 22 1942 ★

U. S. Department of Agriculture

The Daily Digest

Prepared by the Press Service for the use of USDA employees. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department of Agriculture.

Washington, D.C., July 8, 1942

WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN. While subnormal temperatures persisted in a considerable central-northern area, less rainfall and more sunshine in the interior brought decided improvement in weather as affecting agriculture. Despite coolness in the Northwest, nearly all vegetation shows good growth and mostly fair, sunshiny conditions made good harvesting and cultivating weather. Field activities made excellent progress, except in a few local areas where rains were again heavy; much needed cultivation has been accomplished and harvesting of small grains advanced rapidly.

Rains sufficient to delay wheat harvest were confined to limited interior areas and there was more fair, sunshiny weather in the Wheat Belt. Much better harvest weather obtained and progress was rapid. In the Spring Wheat Belt the weather continued nearly ideal and that crop made excellent progress. Plants are heading well northward and the general condition is good to excellent; in South Dakota there are scattered reports of rust, but not serious.

Most of the Corn Belt had subnormal temperatures, but more sunshine and less rain brought decided improvement. In most sections weather permitted active field work and much needed cultivation has been accomplished, while growth was unusually rapid.

In most of the Cotton Belt temperatures averaged below normal, and rainfall was light to moderate, except in southeast and west Gulf localities. For the belt as a whole the weather was largely favorable.

Moisture is needed in southeastern Virginia and some adjacent areas, but, in general, truck crops are doing well in the East. Truck made good progress in the Lake region, and less rain in central sections was favorable. Some frost and hail damage was reported from the central Rocky Mountain area, and high temperatures in Pacific Coast States caused some sunburn. Other than these, growing conditions were mostly favorable in western States.

Pastures continue in good to excellent condition in eastern States and showers were of considerable benefit in the dry Southwest. In most of the West, ranges, pastures, and livestock are in good to excellent condition, except for local need of rain. Haying made better progress during the week, although curing was difficult in some northeastern and north-central sections due to the heavy crop and intermittent showers.

CANS FOR VEGETABLES, FATS, OTHER PRODUCTS TO HAVE NEW TYPES OF PLATE. (Victory, June 23) Manufacturers of cans for several vegetables, fats, and a score of other products have been ordered by the WPB to substitute wherever possible electrolytic tin plate and chemically treated black plate for tin plate so as to further conserve the country's supply of tin.

July 8, 1942

RAW-MATERIAL SHORTAGES IN SWEDEN. (Foreign Commerce Weekly, June 27) Because of the growing shortage of crude rubber and scrap iron, which no longer can be imported, the Swedish Government has launched a nationwide publicity campaign urging the entire population to collect and sell scrap rubber and iron. Because of a shortage of imported fuel and inadequate water supplies, measures are now being taken by the Government and the power companies preparatory to rationing of electricity next fall. In addition to the unsatisfactory receipt of coal and coke from Germany, Sweden so far has been unable to cut the planned quantities of wood essential for fuel and for the production of wood-pulp and cellulose feedstuffs. Because of the uncertainty of future fuel imports, the Swedish Government and the labor unions have been cooperating in organizing a large scale recruiting of workers for accelerating timber cutting.

WILD FRUITS FOR HOME GARDENS. (New York Times, July 7) Native fruits that may not have commercial possibilities at this time, but that add novelty and variety to the home garden are listed by Prof. G.L. Slate, small fruit specialist at the State Experiment Station (Geneva, N.Y.). Many of these "minor" fruits are not only the source of tempting edible products, but are also attractive ornamentals, he says. Among the fruits listed by Prof. Slate as adapted to New York State are the native persimmon, the American papaw, the dwarf juneberry or serviceberry, the buffalo berry, the native elderberry, the high-bush cranberry and bush and sand cherries. In most cases, seeds or plants of these fruits may be obtained from nurserymen and seedmen. Illustrating how fruit growing develops, Prof. Slate pointed out that less than 30 years ago all blueberries came from wild plants, while today commercial blueberry culture has been greatly expanded around highly improved varieties. In a similar way, less than 100 years ago raspberries and blackberries were little more than wild sorts, while cultivated strawberries are scarcely any older.

NATIONAL FERTILIZER ASSOCIATION CONVENTION. (The American Fertilizer, June 20) In opening the 18th annual convention in June, President John A. Miller said: "The crop goals that have been set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture call for the greatest farm production in our history, particularly of animal fats and oils, milk and eggs, canned vegetables, and oil-bearing seeds. These goals cannot be attained unless the best farm practices prevail throughout the country. Among these practices, and one of the most important, is the proper use of the products of our industry, for it is estimated that 15 percent of our total crop production is the direct result of fertilizer use and that we would have to increase our crop area by 30,000,000 acres if we had no fertilizers.

"Consumption of fertilizers during 1941 totaled 9,264,000 tons, the largest consumption in all our history. Production of superphosphate and of potash salts were at peak levels, but there was a considerable shortage of nitrogen materials for direct use this spring. While the prospects for next season's supplies are good, with the exception of the uncertainty in the nitrogen situation, our industry must assist the Government in every way possible to see that each pound of plant food is used to the best advantage of the country as a whole".

July 8, 1942

MEAT INDUSTRY EQUIPMENT, DISTRIBUTION. (The National Provisioner, June 27) Melters, hasher-washers, presses and expellers will be doing heavy duty this fall. Repair and replacement of rendering equipment will be difficult and breakdowns may be disastrous. One way to ensure the utmost in performance from rendering equipment is to practice preventive maintenance. Read about it in an early issue of the National Provisioner. The war is forcing the meat industry to drop many distribution practices which have long been recognized as uneconomical, but which have been retained in order to match the service of competitors. In this connection, an experiment recently conducted by an Illinois dairy firm is of interest: Whereas in 1929 the company operated 72 retail delivery routes, it now has but 30 retail and four wholesale routes. Most of its milk is currently sold through stores, in paper bottles. Retail routes were turned over to competitors and the trucks lent to them, provided the same drivers were allowed to drive them. The radical change was made on the theory that early morning milk deliveries, in these days of adequate refrigeration, are unnecessary.

REDUCTION IN COPPER FOR TRACTOR PARTS. (Implement & Tractor, June 20) Slowly but surely specifications of the 1943 farm tractor have been undergoing changes to gear production to available raw materials which can be spared by military equipment manufacturers. Early this spring, the War Production Board forbade the use of rubber on tractors, thus requiring the use of steel wheels on new machines for the duration. Then in June drastic limitations on the use of copper in manufacture of tractors and engine power units became effective. This order will reduce the amount of copper used in radiators. At the present production rate, approximately 60 tons of copper will be saved each month for use in America's war implements. No copper can be used for equipment to start motors, generators or electrical lighting equipment for farm tractors. However, manufacturers have made progress in developing substitutes for copper for these purposes.

GOATSKIN MARKETS HARD HIT BY WAR. (Hide and Leather and Shoes, June 27) The goatskin markets have been harder hit by the war than almost any other section of the tanning trade. Practically all the goatskins used by American tanners are imported from distant countries. Some of these sources of supply are now wholly shut off to importers in the U.S. while shipping conditions make receipts from other sources irregular and uncertain. Production continues at reduced levels established by the Government, and skins of military value are reserved for makers of Government clothing. There is an increased demand for goatskin leathers for civilian purposes for which other leathers have previously been used.

BUTTER BY THE BARREL. (American Butter Review, June) Packing of butter in 150-lb. barrels is the latest development in the butter packaging field -- another innovation brought on by the influence of war. The new bulk package was demanded not as a trade economy measure but more from the standpoint of expediting the handling and conservation of shipping space, especially on those ships with a limited amount of refrigeration.

July 8, 1942

NAME USDA MAN WESTERN LUMBER ADMINISTRATOR. (Victory, June 23) To facilitate a program of all-out lumber production, WPB Chairman Donald M. Nelson has designated Frederick H. Brundage as western log and lumber administrator of the lumber and products branch. Mr. Brundage has been granted a leave of absence from his position as associate regional forester in the Sixth Region by the Forest Service. As western log and lumber administrator, he will have the full powers of the War Production Board to carry out such action programs as may be necessary in order to obtain the qualities and quantities of lumber required by the war program.

DRIED MEAT. (Butchers' Advocate, July 1) Meat men are apt to scoff at dehydrated or dried meat, but present experiments being carried on should be given close study. Methods by which the volume and weight of beef, pork and mutton can be reduced by one-half for shipment overseas are now being developed by the Dept. of Agriculture and various packers. There are possibilities for its use industrially, such as in canned soups, dog food, stews and the like. But right now dried meat will take less shipping space in boats, which is important.

The trick is to extract the water out of meat. Over half of most meat is pure water. When the water is taken out the resulting product looks wrinkled, dried, and has a bad odor. The present plan is to leave about 3 to 7 percent of the water, which results in a product more like the types of semi-dried meat which already have been accepted here. It is said that much depends upon the quality of the water.

HIGH TESTING HOLSTEINS IN N.J. PROJECT. (The Moos, July) At the State Dairy Research Station in Beemerville, New Jersey has developed the largest Holstein breeding experiment in the country. While there are only approximately 50 milking cows among the purebred Holsteins on the farm, this experiment embraces almost half of the state. On farms from Sussex County -- in which the station is located -- to the southern part of Cumberland County, one finds cows and bulls whose ancestry traces directly to the Experiment Station herd. Some of these herds are cooperating with the Experiment Station herd in an attempt to breed animals of high butterfat inheritance, while others, through the Artificial Breeding Program, are receiving the benefit of the sires that have been bred at the Dairy Research Station.

With the advent of artificial insemination in this state, participating dairymen have requested that the station at Beemerville furnish at least 10 Holstein sires yearly with high fat test inheritance. These are to be used in breeding units which now include some 600 to 700 farmers with approximately 7,000 cows. Members of these units are now obtaining an average of 8,000 pounds of milk per cow. Sires selected from the breeding project at Beemerville should increase the production of daughters over their dams by at least 2,000 pounds of milk, based upon the average production of the herd at the Dairy Research Station. At present milk prices, this means \$70 more per cow per year -- or approximately \$500,000 when applied to the 7,000 cows enrolled in the artificial breeding units.

ARMY FORESTRY UNITS. (Science, July 3) These units will be trained as combat field troops to perform "such tasks as the procurement of lumber and timber for military operations. Officers have been selected from highly qualified foresters, loggers and sawmill men. Enlisted men will be qualified woodsmen and sawmill men."

The Daily Digest

LIBRARY
RECEIVED

★ JUL 22 1942 ★

Prepared by the Press Service for the use of USDA employees. Views and opinions are not necessarily approved by the Department of Agriculture.

Washington, D.C., July 9, 1942

FATS IN DIET OF U.S. ARMY. (The National Provisioner, June 27)

Uses being made by the U.S. Army of various edible fats and oils, including fat-containing foods, were described by Major Jesse H. White of the Quartermaster Corps at the recent meeting of the American Oil Chemists' Society in Houston, Tex. Major White stated that the American soldier in the field is doing hard work and therefore needs about 4,000 calories in his ration. Of this total, 35 to 40 percent should come from fat.

The American soldier is allowed 10 oz. of carcass beef (or 7 oz. of boneless beef) per day. While this is of low good grade, it carries some excess fat in the kidney knob, cod fat, heart fat, etc. Beef is also used in canned meat items and in sausage used by the Army, but the beef is low in fat. Pork cuts used by the Army present little difficulty in excess fat, since most of them are defatted at the source for cooking. Veal carries practically no fat, and mutton and lamb fat is much like beef fat in proportion and consistency. Chicken may supply considerable fat. Little fresh fish is used by the Army. Fish fat is not relished by the average American soldier.

The allowance of lard in the Army ration is 0.64 of an ounce, but until recently practically no lard was purchased by Army messes. However, a "War Lard" has now been developed with greatly improved qualities (see National Provisioner, March 28). Its firmness is increased by the addition of 4 percent or more of hydrogenated flakes, its melting point is not less than 45 degs. C (113 degs. F.) and the smoke point has been greatly improved. Lecithin is added for overseas use and the lard is packaged in hermetically sealed containers.

OPA ORDERS GOV. GRADING ON BEEF, VEAL. (Victory, June 30)

Housewives are assured of a simple and accurate guide for buying beef and veal when the new OPA price regulation on these meats becomes effective July 13, the Consumer Division of the OPA says. All beef and veal sold at wholesale must be graded according to Government (AMA) specifications of quality. Ceiling prices asked by beef and veal wholesalers must be related to the grades stamped on each meat carcass.

When the new regulation goes into effect, shoppers will find all beef, yearling, and veal stamped with a grade letter. Government grades now called "prime" and "choice" will be combined into the new grade "AA." The present Government grade known as "good" will be stamped "A," and will cover most of the better grades of beef and veal bought by housewives. The "commercial" grade will be stamped "B," and the "utility" grade will be stamped "C."

July 9, 1942

TRINIDAD FOOD REGULATION. (Foreign Commerce Weekly, June 27) The storage, transportation, and prices of foodstuffs in Trinidad and Tobago are to be regulated by a food controller. This official will govern all phases of production, processing, sale, and distribution of food in the colony. No person, with certain exceptions, may have in his possession more food than a normal quantity sufficient for 14 days' supply. This is not applicable to producers, dealers, manufacturers, carriers, or warehousemen.

RATIONING OF ARGENTINE BEEF POSSIBILITY. (The National Provisioner, June 27) Rationing of beef in Argentina has been suggested to relieve the shortage which has become acute there in recent months. Beef prices have been rising rapidly with steers selling for around \$9.50 per cwt. (U.S. money) and lambs have sold up to \$22.70 per head. The Buenos Aires Herald reports that retail meat prices are as high as they have ever been. Butchers are said to be charging about 20¢ per lb. for best beef and approximately 14¢ per lb. for average quality beef; mutton varies from about 10¢ to 14¢ per lb. All prices are virtually double what they were a year earlier. Foot and mouth disease, it is said, is partially responsible for some of the shortage. However, there is greater demand than usual for beef and other classes of meat for shipment to England.

DELAY IN COMBINE DELIVERIES. (Implement & Tractor, June 20) Difficulties in obtaining cars, especially flats, for shipments from factories to branch houses is seriously retarding shipments of combines and other harvesting equipment at a time when dealers are making their last minute deliveries to farmers. The shortage naturally is acute, due to production limitations, but so far as the factories are concerned permissible combine production has generally been attained. The ban on rubber for tractors is now reaching the farms, and many overdue orders which are now being filled are finding farmers considerably disappointed in having to accept deliveries of steel wheel units instead of the rubber which they had ordered.

JUNKED AUTOS YIELD 383,253 TONS OF SCRAP IN MAY. (Victory, June 23) The pile of scrap iron and steel necessary to keep the Nation's steel mills at full capacity has been augmented in the last 2 months by the auto graveyard section of WPB's Bureau of Industrial Conservation. A total of 383,253 tons of scrap iron and steel were shipped out of the auto wreckers' yards in the month of May. This is an increase in tonnage of 10 percent over the yield in April and an increase of more than 100 percent over the monthly recovery rate of scrap iron from auto graveyards in 1941.

"DRY ICE" FOR REFRIGERATOR CARS. (Science Service release, June 24) Solid carbon dioxide, or dry ice, is used for cooling refrigerator cars in the system covered by a recent patent. It has the advantages that dry ice packs many times more chill, bulk for bulk and pound for pound, than ordinary ice, it evaporates cleanly as it is used up, and does not leave a wet, drippy, mold-encouraging mess behind. The solid carbon dioxide is much too cold, however, for direct contact with foods and beverages under shipment, so it is used to cool the fluid in a system of circulating tubes or pipes, which in turn keep the contents of the car down to the desired temperature.

July 9, 1942

MEETING OF AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY. (Science, July 3) At the one hundred and fourth national meeting of the Society, to be held in Buffalo September 7 to 11, the contributions of chemistry to the war effort through research in vital materials and through the development of speeded-up industrial processes will provide the principal subject of the meeting. Chemical aspects of food preservation by canning, dehydration and refrigeration will be the subject of a special symposium to be held by the Division of Agricultural and Food Chemistry. Another symposium of this division will be devoted to discussion of the processing of foods for the military forces and protection of food against war damage. A joint session of the Divisions of Agricultural and Food and Biological Chemistry will center on new developments in vitamins and proteins.

CONSULTANT ON AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS. (The Moos, July) In his new assignment at Washington as consultant on agricultural chemicals to the War Production Board, Dr. William H. Martin will be confronted with problems growing out of the wartime necessity for allocating strategic chemicals to maintain agricultural efficiency, while releasing all available materials to other phases of the war effort. The appointment, on a part-time basis, of the dean of the N.J. College of Agriculture and director of the New Jersey Experiment Station, was tendered by Donald M. Nelson, chairman of the WPB.

\$5,000,000,000 A YEAR FOR CONSUMER SERVICES. (Victory, June 30) Price control of consumer services is important to everybody. The American people spend upwards of \$5,000,000,000 a year in nearly 1,000,000 shops and stores on such services and the fact that they are being brought under control will go a long way toward stabilizing the budgets of 33,000,000 American families. Every time you have your shoes shined or your suit pressed or your watch fixed you are buying a consumer service. When you put your automobile in a parking lot or send your clothes to the laundry or have a roll of film developed you are getting a consumer service. There are a thousand-and-one consumer services.

Under the terms of the Office of Price Administration's order, tradesmen cannot charge more for most consumer services than in the month of March. However, price control extends only to service rendered in connection with a commodity. That exempts work done by dentists, for example, or barbers or hairdressers. One of the most important types of service covered by the ceiling are repair services. As time goes on and new consumer goods vanish from the shelves we are going to call on the repair man at more frequent intervals. We will then be grateful that the cost of repairing automobiles, electrical appliances, furniture, luggage, and a host of other things has been stabilized.

SOIL EROSION AS AN ECOLOGICAL PROCESS. (Article by this title in Scientific Monthly, July) Accelerated soil erosion is an important ecological process because it produces marked changes in both the inorganic and biologic components of the environment due largely to removal of portions of the soil profile. Through such erosion, water infiltration is lessened, organic matter is reduced, and the chemical composition of the soil is materially altered as shown by depletion of nitrogen, phosphorus and avail-

July 9, 1942

able potash. Higher plants indicate even more conspicuously the effects of man-induced erosion, as shown by experiments in which crop yields from undisturbed soils prove materially higher than yields from eroded phases of the same soil types; wild plant growth shows a similar correlation. Successional stages of native vegetation may in some instances be related directly to degree of erosion.

Further study of the invasion of eroded areas might result in revision of some ecological concepts. The results of such investigations would contribute to knowledge of ecological principles applicable to the revegetation of eroded areas and to the management of crops, pastures, woodlands and wildlife wherever such management is undertaken as part of the conservation of soil and soil resources.

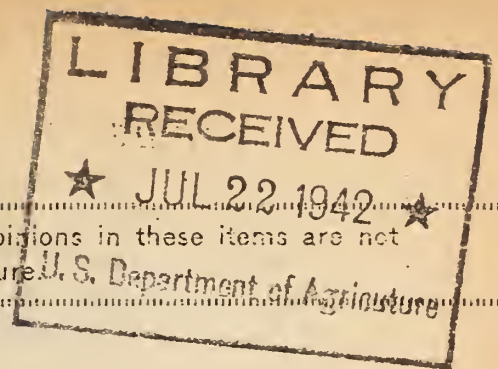
"TANK-TYPE" TIRES INTERCHANGEABLE WITH RUBBER. (Implement & Tractor, June 20) A newly-developed interchangeable "tank-type" steel tire for tractor has been announced, in sizes to fit all popular makes and models of tractors. This steel tire is manufactured to interchange with rubber tires having demountable rims. The complete changeover is said to require no more than one half hour...by simply removing the rim lug bolts, removing the rubber tire and rim and bolting the steel tire in place. In this relatively quick changeover, a wheeled tractor is converted to a track-laying tractor. By means of a patented method of construction, this steel tire operates on the principle of a caterpillar tank. As the wheel turns, an alloy cast steel shoe is laid down and the wheel rolls over it...then when the next shoe is laid in place, the wheel picks up the first one.

Demonstrations in various types of soil and climate show that these steel tires work without slipping in mud, muck, sod, wet fields and fields which have been frozen and slightly thawed. Also, the tires do not tear the land or road as much as spade lugs or cleats.

BRITAIN MOVES TO INSURE LIME FOR FARMER. (Foreign Commerce Weekly, June 27) Urgent consideration is being given by the British Government to maintenance of lime supplies for farmers for the 1942-43 season. Because of labor problems in the lime industry and the increasing demands of other industries besides agriculture for lime, limestone, and chalk, there may be a serious shortage in the total supply for the winter liming season unless farmers take substantially larger amounts of their lime requirements during the summer than they formerly have in that period and thus enable lime producers to operate their works throughout the year at maximum capacity.

To encourage advance buying it has been decided to make a summer delivery payment to farmers as an emergency measure. This payment will amount to an increase from 50 percent to 75 in the contribution made by the exchequer under the Land-Fertility Scheme. It will be payable in respect of the cost of deliveries made under the plan and will be received by occupiers of agricultural land during the period from mid-May to the end of August. This payment is intended as compensation for the inconvenience and additional costs that might be involved in storage and double handling of lime supplies.

The Daily Digest



Prepared by the Press Service for the use of USDA employees. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department of Agriculture.

Washington, D.C., July 10, 1942

NYLON DEFINED AS WAR MATERIEL. (Canadian Textile Journal, July 3) Nylon and nylon products have been declared "supplies" under the Canadian Munitions and Supply Act. Wartime control of nylon is necessary since it is likely to be used in large quantities in the manufacture of parachutes and for other war requirements. Sales of nylon yarns are controlled by the Department of Munitions and Supply, with small quantities being used in Canada for experimental purposes. Use of nylon for civilian purposes was prohibited in the early part of this year. Imports of nylon yarns into Canada from United States in 1941 totalled nearly 70,000 pounds. Restrictions in 1942 reduced imports to 8,530 pounds in the first four months of this year.

CONSERVING PACKAGES. (Market Growers Journal, July) The National League of Wholesale Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Distributors and the Quartermaster Corps in the Army are setting a good example for other marketing agencies. They are encouraging the salvage and return of packages used for marketing of vegetables delivered to the many camps about the country. Growers and local organizations ought to see to it that packages are not wasted in our cities. The time to gather them up is during the season when things are shipped in. When local produce is most abundant, outside shipments are materially reduced and the number of containers available is meager. In many cases packages are still being used for grocery deliveries to households, are broken up, or are put out with the garbage.

INTER-AMERICAN COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION. (Agriculture in the Americas, July) Conspicuous among the groups engaged in strengthening inter-American agricultural relations has been the Advisory Committee on Inter-American Cooperation in Agricultural Education. Its chairman, Knowles A. Ryerson, Assistant Dean of Agriculture at the University of California, says: Much of the time of the committee has been devoted to plans for the establishment of the proposed Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences. Attention has been given to the location, organization, and lines of work of this institution, which promises to be one of the most important contributions to hemispheric economic solidarity.

The outbreak of war with its emphasis on strategic materials, shortage of transportation, and limitation on travel have served to intensify rather than diminish the committee's activities. Any permanent post-war plan must include adequate recognition of and provision for sound agricultural development in all the Americas. Education in this direction is basic.

VICTORY GARDEN HARVEST SHOWS. (Florists Exchange and Horticultural Trade World, July 4) The now fully organized council sponsoring Victory Garden shows now operates from a special office at 230 West 41st. St., New York City. J.W. Johnston has been appointed managing director to whom all inquiries should be directed.

June 10, 1942

SANDBLASTING "ERSATZ" PROCESS IN BLEACHING WALNUTS. (Science Service release, June 26) Sandblasting may become the wartime "ersatz" for the chlorine bleaching process used in preparing California walnuts for market. Bleaching is done not merely to make the walnuts look more attractive, but to disclose shell defects not visible on unbleached nuts. The fruit products laboratory of the California College of Agriculture is now working on the sandblasting process. It bleaches the shells satisfactorily; the problem now is to keep fine sand grains from sifting into the nuts through cracks in the shells.

SCIENTISTS AND MACHINERY OF THE STATE. (Article by this title in Scientific Monthly, July) There must be some broad understanding of the needs of the people -- people as a whole, and of smaller groups, say farmers, workers, tenants, school children, investors, folk in the Great Plains, and other overlapping groups. These must be understood in relation to one another, to general and local economic and social forces, and to the environment. In planning agricultural research, for example, a first question is, what are the limiting factors -- what are the things that are preventing our farm people from realizing a fuller life based upon adequate income, health, education, and the other values that must be recognized?

Constantly agricultural scientists must be examining, and reexamining the whole field of agriculture and the problems developing on farms if they are to keep their research and their science symmetrical in respect to its function. The same is true in other fields, large and small, with due account taken of their many overlapping relationships. This need for dynamic symmetry extends to fundamental research as well as to that dealing with the application of fundamental principles. If we take a wider view of society as a whole, this kind of examination, by scientists, should extend throughout our culture.

FARM EQUIPMENT MUST REACH FARMERS. (Implement & Tractor, June 20) To assure delivery of essential equipment to the American farmer, the War Production board has ordered that products manufactured under its farm machinery and equipment program must actually reach the farm, and must not be diverted to industrial or other non-agricultural uses. The order provides that no one may sell farm machinery and equipment or attachment which he knows will not be used by the ultimate consumer for the production or care of crops, livestock or other produce on a farm. Repair parts are not covered by the order.

LEATHER SHORTAGES LOOM IN BRITAIN. (Foreign Commerce Weekly, June 27) English harnessmakers are having difficulty in satisfying the increasing demands for harness, largely because of shortages in materials. The strong demand is due to increased agricultural activities and to gasoline shortages. The situation is an indication of difficulties appearing throughout various trades which manufacture or use miscellaneous leather products. At present, leather production stands at 25 percent of normal.

OFFICIAL FAT COLLECTING STATION. (Butchers' Advocate, July 1) This is the sticker which will appear at all retail meat shops a few days after the first advertising appears, opening the campaign. Shops bearing this sticker will be official collection stations for the duration of the campaign.

July 10, 1942

DEALER, RENDERER FAT DRIVE JOBS OUTLINED. (The National Provisioner, June 27) Instructions to renderers and to meat dealers as to their part in the nationwide drive to salvage household fats have been issued by the bureau of industrial conservation of the War Production Board. Public announcement of the drive, through which it is hoped to collect 500,000,000 lbs. of inedible grease annually, is expected later. Under the Chicago collection plan (which is the model for the national program) the housewife is paid 5¢ per lb. and the retailer is allowed 1¢ per lb. for weighing and buying the waste household greases. Thus the renderer is paying 6¢ per lb. The price paid the housewife should be the renderer's price, less 1¢ for handling.

FOREIGN REQUIREMENTS BRANCH IN PRIORITIES BUREAU. (Victory, June 30) Establishment of a foreign requirements branch in the Bureau of Priorities has been announced. The new branch will be headed by Fred Lavis, Jr. The Foreign requirements branch will serve as liaison on priority matters between the War Production Board, the Lend-Lease Administration, and the Board of Economic Warfare, and will receive all applications for priority assistance from foreign governments or purchasers in foreign countries (except Canada) received through these agencies.

LATIN AMERICA NOW TRADES WITH ITSELF. (Article by this title in Foreign Commerce Weekly, June 27) Many reports reflect the booming growth of inter-Latin-American trade. Bolivia has established a commercial agency in Buenos Aires in an attempt to develop new markets for its petroleum, minerals, and agricultural products. Argentine firms are now canvassing Costa Rica and El Salvador. Salesmen from Brazil, Argentina, and Chile now visit Venezuela. The Lloyd-Brasileiro Line has been asked by the Brazilian Government to assign one of its boats to a new Brazilian-Mexican trade route. The Peruvian Government has sent a trade mission to Venezuela. The Dominican Republic works toward achieving its ambition of becoming "the Breadbasket of the Caribbean" by increasing its trade with Latin America (mainly the islands) in 1941 by 70 percent (\$668,000) over 1940.

How much of this general expansion in inter-Latin-American trade is permanent, how much of Latin America's import-export trade will revert to old channels as it did after the First World War? It is evident, that Latin America, at the end of this war, will have built some habits, as well as organizations, which will expand; some changes, commercial evolutions, brought on by the war will be permanent. A much better transportation system, greater producing and consuming capacity, a more carefully thought-out economy, many new industries, will survive -- and expand. The future of Latin America's internal commerce and economics cannot escape being influenced by this new trade tendency. It can, in some instances, produce losses for us; but it can also be, to an even greater extent, our hemispheric gain.

CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION. Personnel Officers Needed. An opportunity to make your record available for consideration for civilian War Service. Positions to be filled: Personnel Officer, \$4,600 to \$6,500; Personnel Assistant, \$2,600 to \$3,800. No. 243 (Unassembled). Applications will be accepted until the needs of the service have been met. If an excessive number is received, only a number sufficient to meet the needs of the service will be examined in order of receipt. Appointments will be known as War Service appointments. Such appointments generally will be for the duration of the War.

July 10, 1942

SELLING COFFEE TO BRAZILIANS. (Business Week, June 27) Stunned by the prospect that their market in the United States will be sharply curtailed because of the shipping shortage, and impressed with the good effect of their advertising campaign in the United States, Brazilian coffee growers are planning to advertise their product in the home market and may try some of the same copy appeal that was so successful in the United States.

From 1900 to 1937, coffee consumption in the United States increased from $10\frac{1}{2}$ to almost $13\frac{1}{2}$ lb. a person, but between 1937 and 1941, when a steady flow of advertising was used in the United States press, there was a further jump of more than 3 lb. Iced coffee is an almost unknown drink in Brazil, despite the heat and the cheapness of coffee, and the use of coffee as a flavoring for ice cream, cakes, and candy is unheard of.

HEDGE PLANTS FOR THE NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS. (New Farmers' bulletin, No. 1898) Hedge plants for protective and ornamental purposes in formally sheared or sometimes untrimmed hedges, and also individually or in groups, have broad appeal to landowners. Where mixed shrubbery cannot be fitted in because the area is limited, a hedge is desirable. Such hedges may take the place of fences on larger properties and may also serve as windbreaks. To ascertain the kinds of tree and shrub species for conditions on the northern Great Plains area in which the Mandan station is located, a field test of shrubs, trees, and roses of known hardiness was inaugurated at the Northern Great Plains Field Station, Mandan, N.Dak., in 1915 and with some later additions has been continued to date. A fairly large number of species were found to survive general conditions from 15 to 20 years. (F.B. is available from Office of Information, U.S.D.A., Washington.)

MILK FOR BRITISH MOTHERS, CHILDREN. (Dairy Record, July 1) Mothers, babies and school children will be provided with ample quantities of re-constituted milk next winter because Britain has large quantities of powdered milk in the United States ready to be brought to this country, Lord Woolton, Food Minister, told the National Baby Welfare Council last week. Lord Woolton told the conference that huge quantities of American spray-dried milk were being allocated for British use and that ample amounts of this type of dried skim would be available for reconstituted milk for older children and adults and that there would also be available sufficient quantities of powdered whole milk for infants and small children.

HAULING MILK AND CREAM COOPERATIVELY. (Editorial in Hoard's Dairyman, July 10) The labor and tire situation is causing owners of creameries and farmers to consider developing a more efficient system of transporting cream and milk from the farm to the factory. Before the advent of the truck, it was not uncommon for several farmers to get together and haul their milk cooperatively. This brought each farmer to town at least one day a week and took practically a half day's time a week to deliver his milk or cream. The advent of the truck has largely eliminated this cooperative effort in transporting milk and cream, but now the lack of rubber is bringing to the consideration of both the farmer and the factory operator the cost of delivering dairy products to factories for processing. Under present conditions it seems there could be developed through cooperation of neighbors a more efficient system of transporting milk or cream to the creamery or other manufacturing institutions.

The Daily Digest

LIBRARY
RECEIVED
★ JUL 22 1942 ★
U. S. Department of Agriculture

Prepared by the Press Service for the use of USDA employees. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department of Agriculture.

Washington, D.C., July 13, 1942

CORRUGATED PAPER EGG CASES. (New Jersey Farm and Garden, July)

The Tri-County Cooperative Auction Market Association, Hightstown, N.J., has distributed fifty corrugated paper egg cases among its producers. It is of a new design and is on trial for the purpose of learning what reaction may result from their use by both buyer and producers. These cases are admittedly less sturdy than wooden ones, which we are accustomed to handling sometimes too roughly. Second-hand egg cases will become more scarce as the war continues, with the added possibility of new wood material also becoming scarce. Paper, we are assured, can be had in abundance for this purpose, and egg cases made from it, if used in large quantities, would be somewhat cheaper than wood, the main difference in price resulting from less cost in assembling and transportation.

WICKARD APPLAUDS IBCA. (Poultry Supply Dealer, July) In a statement concerning the coming Victory Rally and Conference (at Grand Rapids, Mich., July 21-24) and the war efforts of the Association, Claude R. Wickard, Secretary of Agriculture, said: "The poultry industry has been called upon to do a large and important job in the Food-for-Freedom program. The job is being done and the egg production goal for 1942 is being reached. No small part of this achievement is the result of the cooperation of the individual hatcherymen in providing the producers with a sufficient quantity of high-grade chicks. The International Baby Chick Association is to be commended for its aid to hatcherymen in producing high-quality chicks to enable poultrymen to meet production goals."

WOODEN TIRES INTRODUCED BY MEMPHIS ICE COMPANY. (Ice and Refrigeration, July) A tire of wood and steel has been made and used successfully as a substitute for pneumatic tires. The substitute is made by taking an automobile wheel and mounting $3\frac{1}{2}$ inch blocks of ash wood on it, then capping them with a steel rim. The garage superintendent for the company estimates these tires will wear at least five years compared with the average of three years service for rubber tires. The wood is cut into four sections and clamped to the wheel by large bolts through the rim. Then a blacksmith attaches the steel rim, heated, which causes it to expand, and then quickly cooled causing it to contract onto the wood. It is then fastened in place with iron pins. A St. Louis company which operates a fleet of newspaper delivery trucks has used this tire and has ordered 50 sets for use on its trucks.

IMPORT CONTROL: AID TO VICTORY. (Article by this title in Foreign Commerce Weekly, July 4) To halt waste of shipping space on unessential commodities, when shipping is utterly vital for winning the war, the War Production Board and the Board of Economic Warfare take restrictive and directive measures regarding this Nation's imports.

July 13, 1942

EXPERIMENT STATIONS FOR EL SALVADOR, NICARAGUA. (Agriculture in the Americas, July) Preliminary agreements have been reached by the United States government, through the Department of Agriculture, with the governments of El Salvador and Nicaragua for establishment of agricultural experiment stations in those countries. The accords are similar to the one recently signed with Peru, which provided for a cooperative experiment station at Tingo Maria in that country. In each case, the Latin American government is to supply land and buildings, with the United States providing certain scientific personnel and equipment not available in Central America. The headquarters of the Salvadoran station will be at Hacienda Zapotitan. In Nicaragua, the project will center near the town of Recreo.

DAIRY CATTLE CONGRESS DATES. (Hoard's Dairyman, July 10) The thirty-third annual Dairy Cattle Congress and Allied Shows will be held at Waterloo, Iowa, September 7-13 inclusive, or three weeks in advance of the originally announced dates. The change has been made to accommodate dairy cattle exhibitors and to form a more compact circuit with the leading fairs that will be held in the Central West. All of the national and state judging and demonstration contests will be held as usual. The educational exhibits and events of the week will all be keyed to the FIF program.

WAX FOR VEGETABLES. (Market Growers Journal, July) Approximately 65% of the tomatoes shipped out of California are waxed, according to the University of California. The principal advantages of waxing vegetables are retarding of evaporation, with consequent shrinking and shriveling of the fruit, and improvement of appearance. Reduction of moisture loss is reflected in table quality.

Wax is applied in several different forms. Some are using water emulsion for which special drying equipment is required. Wax is also applied in solution in a light hydrocarbon somewhat more volatile than gasoline. Another form of wax application is spraying hot melted wax. This method is simple and requires no drying equipment.

CANADIAN COTTON WAR ORDERS. (Canadian Textile Journal, July 3) Production of cotton goods in Canada against direct and indirect war orders is now at the rate of 215 million yards annually. Principal items include aircraft fabric, ammunition pouches, anti-gas cloth, camouflage netting, gun covers, parachute webbing, power bags, uniform cloth, web equipment and other essentials. Fully 65 percent of the entire industry is engaged on war goods and essential civilian lines. Further orders will be allocated to cotton mills by the Department of Munitions and Supply within the next month, calling for approximately 30 million yards of a wide range of materials. Present rate of war goods production will therefore continue well into 1943. These figures emphasize the basic importance of cotton manufacturing in the war.

ORANGE OIL FROM BRAZIL. (Foreign Commerce Weekly, June 27) Brazil, home of the navel orange, is now rated as the largest producer of orange oil for the American market, says the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs. The growth of Brazil's orange industry within the past 2 years has been most rapid. Today, in the State of Sao Paulo alone, one finds more than 100 plants specializing in extraction of orange oil from orange peels.

July 13, 1942

PLAN CHEESE DRIVE. (Dairy Record, July 1) A 13-weeks nationwide campaign designed to move the heavy cheese surplus from the market will soon be launched. Underwriting the \$100,000 advertising program will be members of the National Cheese Institute, and the state organizations affiliated with the American Dairy Association. ADA will also provide part of the finances. The program will consist largely of newspaper advertising and of point of sale material.

AGREEMENT ON TEA BUYING FOR UNITED NATIONS. (Victory, July 7) Tea for all of the United Nations will be purchased by the Ministry of Food of the United Kingdom, it was announced in Washington at a meeting of the tea industry advisory committee. An understanding for the purchasing agreement has been reached between representatives of the British Ministry of Food, War Production Board, Board of Economic Warfare, State Department, and Department of Agriculture. The Ministry of Food will make all purchases of tea in India, Ceylon, and East Africa for all of the United Nations. The tea will be allocated by a committee which will have headquarters in London, and on which the United States Government will be represented. The United States Government will create an agency of imports, purchasing only from the the Ministry of Food.

DON'T WASTE FOOD! (National Butter and Cheese Journal, July) Reducing food waste on the long haul from the farm to the consumer has always been a challenge to American food experts. But now consumers themselves are guilty of sabotaging our food supply. In cities large and small, a sixth of the food purchased is chucked into the garbage can or otherwise lost. A survey of the nation's garbage pile shows that the waste totals 302 pounds a year for each person in 412 cities having an aggregate population of 53,000,000. In New York City the garbage totals 328 pounds a year per person; in Pittsburgh it is 313 pounds. Less wasteful are the people of Boston, 291 pounds; Los Angeles, 285 pounds; Cleveland, 281 pounds; Detroit, 246 pounds; Chicago, 212 pounds; Philadelphia, 203 pounds; Baltimore, 197 pounds; and St. Louis, 196 pounds.

SHIFTING CHANNELS FOR MARKETING MILK. (Article by this title in Coastal Cattleman, July) Two channels -- wholesale milk and farm-skimmed cream -- carry most of the farmer's milk to market. But the relative importance of these two outlets has been shifting. Under the pressure of war demands for protective whole milk foods, the American farmer has been damming the ditches leading to the separator bowl and diverting more and more of his product through the wholesale milk channel. Out of the more than 93 billion pounds of milk utilized for the milk, cream, and home-made butter marketed by farmers in 1941, fully 52 billion pounds left the farm as bulk whole milk. Compared with 1940, wholesale milk gained a full 4 billion milk-pounds over farm-skimmed cream as a commercial outlet for the milk produced. In 1941 the cream sold by farmers was skimmed from about 34 billion pounds of milk.

SALT FRIEND OF MEAT FLAVOR. (The National Provisioner, June 27) Good salt is the friend of fine meat flavor. It is particularly important that high quality salt be used in prepared meats since these products are extremely sensitive to influences which affect flavor and color. Salt is a preservative and, therefore, only high quality salt should be used for curing meat products and sausage.

July 13, 1942

JOB FOR FOOD REQUIREMENTS COMMITTEE. (Editorial in Food Industries, July) When Donald M. Nelson announced creation of the War Food Requirements Committee and appointed Secretary of Agriculture Wickard as its chairman, the much needed initial step was taken. It now appears probable that, in so far as human endeavors permit the food problems of the United Nations and ourselves will be handled aggressively and according to a unified plan. The State, War and Navy Departments; the Board of Economic Warfare; the Lease-Lend Administration; and the Civilian Supply, Industry Operations and Materials divisions of WPB are adequately represented.

The No. 1 job of the WERC is, of course, to determine how much food it is necessary to produce and process in the United States during the next crop year. This must include all the various types of food needed. It is gratifying to learn that Secretary Wickard has already compiled much data on this score which he has used as the basis for the farm production program. No such data or estimates appear to have been made on the No. 2 job, the survey of processing facilities in this nation. The No. 3 task is a survey of needed packaging supplies and an estimate of the packaging materials expected to be available. The No. 4 job will be to grant sufficient materials and building of facilities to process and preserve the foods needed.

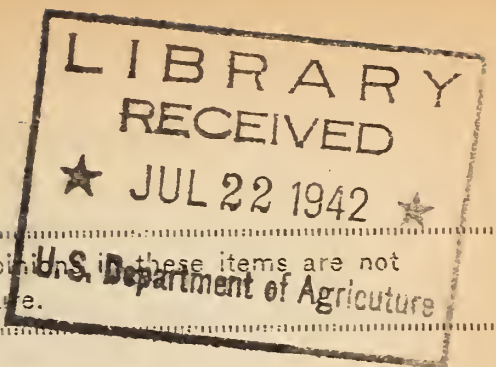
FATS FROM DISHWATER. (N.Y. Times, July 10) A method of reclaiming from dishwater large quantities of solid fat which can be passed straight to industry has been devised by Miss Jean Harwood, an 18-year-old laboratory assistant in a lubricant factory working for the British Ministry of Supply. She estimates the services should be able to extract 1,680 pounds a month from the dishwashing of 1,000 men, or a total of some thousands of tons a month if the method were applied for every unit in service. The laboratory in which she works also has perfected a process for reclaiming the residue from used canned-meat jars. "Some of our discoveries will revolutionize domestic housecleaning," said the manager of the factory, "and the economic factor in eliminating industrial waste in peacetime will be enormous."

NEW FILM STRIP ON BRUCELLOSIS OF CATTLE. "Brucellosis of Cattle (Bang's Disease)" is the title of a new film strip just released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It illustrates some of the ways in which brucellosis may attack cattle and practical methods for its prevention. Brucellosis testing, calfhood vaccination, sanitation, and the use of disinfectants in fighting the disease are emphasized.

The new strip contains 48 illustrations and accompanying explanatory statements. It was prepared cooperatively by the Bureau of Animal Industry and the Extension Service. Department specialists point out that effective control of brucellosis through the methods described in the film strip contributes to the efficient production of meat, milk, and other cattle products.

GROUND BARLEY FOR CATTLE. (Successful Farming, July) Grinding barley, even for calves, proved a paying practice at the Nebraska College of Agriculture. Cattle receiving whole barley in a feeding test averaged about 30 pounds lighter than the other lots. Cattle fed ground barley showed very little difference in gain compared with those receiving corn. Spartan barley, which sometimes weighs as much as 48 pounds per bushel compared with 42 pounds for the older types, was used.

The Daily Digest



Prepared by the Press Service for the use of USDA employees. Views and opinions are not necessarily approved by the Department of Agriculture.

Washington, D.C., July 14, 1942

USE OF SOYA LECITHIN WILL SAVE SCARCE FATS. (Food Industries, July) Because of economic dislocations arising from the war, soya lecithin is acquiring increased importance in improving the quality, extending the period of stability, and cutting the costs of food-stuffs. Foods containing fats, egg yolks and vitamins A and B₁ are particularly affected. Savings of important fats may be had by using lecithin in the confectionery, chocolate, biscuit and bread making industries. The period of stability of the edible fats themselves may be lengthened for long storage or export by a trace of soya lecithin. In products such as ice cream, the supply of egg yolk can be extended effectively by a mixture of lecithin and glyceryl monostearate. German military emergency rations contain lecithin.

The soya lecithin commonly used is extracted from soybeans grown in the United States. There has been a steady increase in the soybean crop and a steady decrease in the price of lecithin until now it is available at reasonable cost for almost any industrial use. Soya lecithin has heretofore been looked upon as a specialty ingredient. But because of the properties and proved applications of lecithin, and because of its availability, soya lecithin justifiably can be regarded as a commodity which may assume first-rank importance in the conservation of, and more effective use of, strategic materials such as fats and vitamins.

COMMITTEE DESIGNS FUR LINED AVIATOR'S UNIFORM. (The American National Fur & Market Journal, July) To assure the warmest and most efficient clothing for the armed forces of the United States and its allies, the Washington Committee of the American National Fur Breeders Association has been working for months with army and navy supply authorities. Experience on the eastern European front last winter taught all nations the great value of fur clothing. One of the reasons why the Nazis suffered so greatly from the extremely rigorous Russian winter was that they lacked proper fur clothing. The Russians, however, were properly equipped with fur. The committee had a fur-lined aviator's uniform designed and made up. All metal such as zippers, was eliminated and the uniform was made as light and at as low a cost as possible. Muskrat skins were used for lining. The uniform consists of five parts; a fur lined parka with hood, a fur lined pair of trousers of overall design, a pair of mittens, a pair of Russian boots, and a pair of heavy rubber shoes to go over the Russian boots.

WATCH THAT FIRE! (Soil Conservation, July) Some 3,500 persons are burned to death in fires on farms and in rural communities each year; the loss runs to about \$200,000,000. Forest and grass fires take an enormous toil in property damage. Along with safeguarding the soil, throw out added protection against farm fires. These are days when we cannot afford to waste soils, farm property, or manpower.

July 14, 1942

LOCKER PLANT'S PLACE IN THE WAR PICTURE. (Quick Frozen Foods, June) If the canning of fruits and vegetables during 1943 is to be cut drastically it will be necessary to utilize every possible alternative. Frozen food locker plants, or local food processing and frozen storage plants, can make a real contribution by conserving steel, tin, and rubber. For every ton of fruits and vegetables stored by patrons in locker rooms that would otherwise come out of tin cans, they save 500 pounds of steel and approximately 7 pounds of tin. For every ton of locally produced foods which would otherwise have to be hauled to and from terminal processing centers 150 miles away, assuming that waste amounts to 50 percent of the weight of the raw product, these plants release 450 ton miles of transportation capacity.

The estimated 4,100 locker plants operating in the United States on January 1, 1942, can preserve during 1942 over 600 million pounds of food. If half of this amount of locally produced food had to be moved to and from terminal processing centers an average of 150 miles away, the total hauling involved, including the weight of waste hauled to market and packaging materials carried back from the market, would amount to 67.5 million ton miles or 33.8 million miles for a truck hauling an average load of two tons. This is the equivalent of 202 million truck tire miles or 7,250 truck tires saved annually. This saving in rubber tires is a real contribution.

BOLIVIAN HIGHWAY TO SPUR FOOD TRANSPORT. (Agriculture in the Americas, July) To facilitate the movement of foodstuffs from the food-producing Santa Cruz district to the food-consuming mining districts of the altiplano, the Bolivian government plans to construct 225 miles of highway between Cochabamba and Santa Cruz. For the project a Bolivian development corporation will be established with credit from the Export-Import Bank of Washington. It is to be the first step in a \$25,000,000 development program in Bolivia agreed upon at the Rio de Janeiro conference of foreign ministers.

FREIGHT EFFICIENCY ON BRITISH RAILWAYS. (Foreign Commerce Weekly, July 4) The railways of the United Kingdom are carrying enormous quantities of freight and are using less engine power than usual to do it, according to reports in the British press. Few new engines have been built because the steel was needed for war weapons. In addition, engines were lost in France, a number have gone to the Soviet Union, and others have been loaned for use in factory sidings. To illustrate the increasing demand for freight transport: 301,088,461 loaded car miles were operated during a recent month, which exceeded the 1929 pre-war peak in railway carryings by 11,557,632. The Central Wagon Control sees that more than a million cars controlled by the British railways are where they are wanted when they are wanted.

COOPERATIVE INSTITUTE MEETS. (Hoard's Dairyman, July 10) The 18th annual session of the American Institute of Cooperation will gather on the campus of the Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., during the week of Aug. 10 to study means of extending the contribution of their organizations to the FFF program.

July 14, 1942

FROZEN TURKEYS TO PROVIDE TURKEY STEAKS. (Ice and Refrigeration, July) Taking turkeys from refrigerated rooms, turkey growers of the Pacific Northwest will carve turkey steaks and have sliced steaks of the white meat ready for a summer market, in a new plan to spread the turkey market through the summer period. The turkey ranchers of Washington state, where 511,000 turkeys were raised for the last holiday season mainly, believe they have the key for putting turkeys in general distribution between seasons, or during the dull summer period. The steaks will be cut from one-half to a full inch in thickness, with tidbits taken also from the thighs, backs and wings.

SEEK TIN SUBSTITUTE FOR PACKING. (Poultry Supply Dealer, July) Experiments of far-reaching importance in finding a suitable substitute for the fast-diminishing supply of tin for packing eggs and other foods are being conducted in Chicago by government experts working with a committee from the National Egg Products Association. Fibre materials and wood are being used in the present experiments. The liquid eggs are placed in the experimental containers, after which a thermo-electric cup is placed over it to determine time taken to freeze the liquid in cold storage. Experiments also include jostling the containers to determine durability in resisting customary shocks encountered in rail and ship transit and the usual handling incident thereto.

GLASS THAT FLOATS FOR LIFE PRESERVERS; INSULATION AGAINST HEAT. (Science Service release, June 29) Breaking a bottle-neck caused by shortage of cork, a new kind of glass that floats on water is to be used in life preservers, life rafts and life boats. It is a black, non-transparent material that does not look like ordinary glass. Weighing only 10 pounds per cubic foot, "foamglas," as it has been named, is being produced in Pennsylvania. The material is permanently buoyant in water and has insulating value. The new glass is to be marketed as insulation in the cold rooms of meat-packing plants, breweries, dairies and ice cream plants.

SAYS GAME HUNTING IS FORAGE SAVER. (Denver report in Washington Post, July 13) A new industry may result from big game hunting in the United States. H.L. Shantz, chief of the division of wildlife management, Forest Service, says heretofore as many as 1,200,000 deer hides have been imported annually from Thailand and South America. But with imports reduced to vitally needed goods, hides such as these, which are manufactured into leather worth twice as much as leather from beef hides, are crowded out of the import trade. Americans have never saved deer hides in commercial quantities, but this year many States are trying to arrange a market for these hides. Shantz emphasized that hunting must continue and expand if valuable range feed needed for livestock is to be preserved. In most parts of the West, State and forestry officials are apprehensive of the growing numbers of deer and elk that are competing with cattle and sheep for mountain range.

ROADSIDE MARKETS. (New Jersey Farm and Garden, July) Scarcity of cars on highways forebodes hard sledding for roadside markets this summer. This will tend to increase shipments to city markets by heavy duty trucks and they may not be easy to get. Growers nearest to markets are certain to benefit in an era of truck and freight car curtailment.

July 14, 1942

PACKAGING STUDY AT PENNSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY. (National Butter and Cheese Journal, July) A study of the relative economies of handling goods in bulk and in packaged form will be conducted by the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce of the University of Pennsylvania. The study, made possible by a grant from the Container Corporation of America will be conducted by the marketing department with assistance of other groups. The original portion of the study will be concerned principally with developing methods for application of distributive cost analysis to the problem of bulk versus packaged distribution and to discovery of significant data revealed by such analysis. Plans call for limiting the study to one or two widely used commodities distributed both in packaged form and in bulk.

COTTON TEXTILE OUTPUT IN 1941 AT RECORD. (Victory, July 7) The cotton textile industry produced in 1941 more than 10½ billion linear yards of cotton fabrics, surpassing all previous records, it was announced by the WPB and the OPA. The statement was based on a survey to obtain data for planning the Government's war textile program. Even though the 1941 production represented a 25 percent increase over 1939 production, 1942 production will be even larger than that of 1941. WPB found it necessary, in view of steadily increasing military and civilian requirements, to plan for an estimated 12 billion linear yard output in 1942.

The reason for increasing military requirements is, of course, the steadily increasing size of our armed forces. The reason for increasing civilian requirements is the fact that cotton textiles are being called on to replace in civilian products the silk, nylon, and wool fabrics being diverted to the armed services, and that a substantial part of textile production is being diverted to the manufacture of bagging and twine which were formerly supplied by burlap and imported cordage fibers.

SWISS CONSERVATION MEASURES. (Foreign Commerce Weekly, June 27) A few months after the outbreak of war, the Swiss Government, realizing that imports of raw materials would be sharply curtailed, decided to exploit in every way possible the raw material in the country and to begin systematically to collect and utilize all essential waste products. Each city and each community has its organization for the collection of waste paper, tin cans, tubes, tinfoil, rags, leather, rubber, iron and other metals, refuse vegetable matter, and bones. In apartment houses waste is delivered to the janitor, who keeps in the cellar separate sacks for old newspapers, other scrap paper, rags, tin cans, tooth paste and other tubes, leather and rubber, and scrap metals.

CANADIAN WOOL RESTRICTIONS. (Canadian Textile Journal, July 3) The Wartime Prices and Trade Board, Ottawa, states that in order to conserve wool supplies weavers and spinners must after August 1 obtain a permit before putting into process for civilian production any fabric or hand knitting yarn containing wool. Weavers and spinners will be licensed under authority of the board. Purpose of the new regulations is to control the proportionate use of wool and substitutes for wool in fabric and yarn. The licensing plan will also provide accurate information to assist in such simplification and standardization as from time to time may be advisable.

The Daily Digest

LIBRARY

RECEIVED

★ JUL 23 1942 ★

Prepared by the Press Service for the use of USDA employees. These items are not necessarily approved by the Department of Agriculture.

Washington, D.C., July 15, 1942

WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN. Aside from too much rain in portions of the Ohio and central Mississippi Valleys where wheat harvest and haying were delayed and needed cultivation of row crops prevented, recent weather in the principal crop growing sections of the country has been nearly ideal, especially in the Great Plains and central-northern localities. Except in the wet areas, farm work made excellent progress and agricultural prospects are good over an unusually large percentage of the country.

Heavy showers in many places in the Ohio and central Mississippi Valleys, caused considerable delay to winter wheat harvest, but this work is now well along in most sections; further lodging is reported in wetter localities. Threshing has begun in some places. Weather in central-northern States remained nearly ideal for spring wheat. It is maturing rapidly, filling well, and, in southern portions of the belt, ripening fast. In the Pacific Northwest harvest has begun in south-central Washington, with yields good.

With warmer weather in the western and north-western corn belt, the crop responded rapidly to improved weather. In limited areas of the Ohio Valley, especially central and southern Illinois, fields continue too wet, with plants on lowlands yellowing and fields weedy.

In the Cotton Belt temperatures were above normal and weather mostly fair, making a good week for cotton. In Texas there were some damaging heavy rains in south-central and southern localities. In the central States of the belt progress and condition were mostly good. In the eastern belt the weather was generally favorable.

Truck and miscellaneous crops made fair to good advance in practically all sections. Tobacco is in good condition in the Southeast and is doing well on uplands in Kentucky. Sugar beets are in good condition generally. Soybeans are good to excellent in central valleys, although locally poor in wet areas. Fruit continues to do well generally.

Pastures are in good to excellent condition in the East and most of the Great Plains. Ranges need rain in a considerable southwestern area, but livestock continue in good shape. Showers retarded haying in parts of the East and Northeast, but in many central sections the second crop of hay and alfalfa has been secured.

PERUVIAN LOANS TO HELP MAINTAIN FOOD SUPPLY. (Agriculture in the Americas, July) The Industrial Bank of Peru has been empowered to grant loans for improving the country's food supply and shipping facilities. These credits will be used to open new foodstuffs plant, enlarge the existing ones, and to organize fishing enterprises and purchase vessels and equipment.

July 15, 1942

"STORY OF MEAT," NEW BOOK FOR STUDENTS. (Butchers' Advocate, July 8) As a contribution to vocational education in the production and distribution of foods, which has been greatly stimulated by the war, Swift & Co. has published a new and revised edition of "The Story of Meat" for students of high school age. First published three years ago by Swift and distributed to vocational educators and students in meat merchandising classes, the book has been acclaimed as a notable experiment in cooperation between education and industry. It is written in a scientific and objective manner, free from commercial exploitation.

A PEACH OF A REPORT. (Consumers' Guide, July) Reports indicate that a big crop of peaches is on the way. They come from Georgia, the Carolinas, and Arkansas. California's peach crop looks good. From Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, come favorable reports. Even though frosts this spring did heavy damage in some Midwestern States, 1942's peach total for the whole country looks like a whopper. Last year's crop, the second largest of record, was 69 million bushels. Maybe that can't be equaled this year, but there's no doubt that peaches in quantity will be on hand for dessert, for canning, for drying.

Peach plantings are on the rise. In 1940, the last year we counted them, 69 million peach trees grew in our orchards, compared with 67 million in 1935. Although the number of trees of bearing age slid off, the number of trees growing up to the bearing age jumped from about 13 million to almost 22 million. In North and South Carolina and Arkansas, new peach plantings have been especially heavy in recent years.

NEW CHINCH BUG DUST SHOWS PROMISE. (The Illinois Agricultural Association Record, July) A new chinch bug dust developed at the Illinois Experiment Station is being mixed and bagged by the Adams County Shipping Association and 55,000 pounds of it are available. The new poison, dinitro chinch bug dust, was developed under the direction of W.P. Flint, chief entomologist of the State Natural History Survey, and Illinois station. The poison takes the place of creosote barriers as creosote cannot be obtained for insect eradication because it is being used for war purposes. Dinitro dust has an advantage over creosote in that it kills the pest, while creosote was only a repellent.

Flint reports the new dust has been tried out for two years on the university farm. In 1941 experiments were carried on with five farms in the state and four reported satisfactory results. While Flint believes little chinch bug dust probably will be needed this season if there are continued rains, he reports that the dinitro dust experimentation has been carried far enough to warrant the use of it in a general way on Illinois farms this year.

ALCOHOL FROM WHEAT IN AUSTRALIA, CANADA. (Foreign Commerce Weekly, July 4) Plans are under way in Australia to produce power alcohol from surplus wheat, according to reports which indicate that as soon as arrangements have been concluded distillery sites will be selected in wheat-growing areas....To relieve the molasses shortage, wheat will be used as a raw material by Canadian distillers of industrial alcohol. According to official estimates, between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 bushels of wheat will be needed annually for this purpose.

July 15, 1942

ROTENONE ROOT SURVEY IS STARTED. (Agriculture in the Americas, July) A program to encourage increased production in the Amazon Valley of high-grade rotenone-bearing roots has been undertaken by the governments of Brazil and the United States. The first step is a preliminary survey of wild rotenone plant resources of the Valley, which is being made by agricultural scientists of the two countries. In the party are Dr. W. Andrew Archer, Bureau of Plant Industry, and E.C. Higbee, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, both of whom are experienced in agricultural exploration and production in Latin America. The men arrived in June at the Instituto Agronomico do Norte in Belem, headquarters for the survey. Rotenone, one of the most potent insecticides in use today, is contained in the roots of certain wild plants of the tropics.

CORN DOLLED UP FOR MARKET. (New Jersey Farm and Garden, July) A new dress to doll up sweet corn for the market is a green open-mesh sack to contain about fifty ears. It has already been used with success in Texas and other Southern states, from which shipments are made under crushed ice. Its cost is slightly less than the present-day price of baskets, but it takes two pairs of hands to do a good packing job, whereas one man can put up an attractive basket. It, and a new type crate designed especially for corn, may have limited use here in seasons to come.

REPAIR PARTS FOR TRACK-LAYING TRACTORS LIMITED. (War Letter for Agriculture, July 13) Production and distribution of repair parts for track-laying tractors have been restricted by WPB to assure an adequate supply for essential uses. At present, due to uneven distribution there is a shortage of certain repair parts for tractors used on vital projects, including agricultural operations closely related to the war program.

The WPB action limits manufacturers as to the quantity of output: they must sell 40 percent of their total production to the Army and Navy; they cannot sell, to any authorized distributor or dealer (during any calendar quarter), more than 60 percent of the deliveries made to such distributors or dealers the preceding 6 months. The order also provides that before selling repair parts to any person, distributors and dealers must obtain a statement of type of track-laying tractor to be repaired, purpose for which it is to be used, and minimum quantity of parts necessary to put the equipment in serviceable condition. They are also prohibited from delivering more parts than are necessary to meet a person's minimum requirements.

AFRICA MAY TAKE EUROPE'S SURPLUS POPULATION AFTER THE WAR. (Science Service release, July 3) Africa may play the role in the last half of the 20th century, and the beginning of the 21st, that America played in the 19th as absorber of Europe's population surpluses, suggests the University of California at Los Angeles. One reason for the relatively peaceful state of the world for a hundred years after Waterloo was the availability of open lands in America, Australia and New Zealand for people crowded out of Europe. Africa, although the second of the continents in area, has a population of only 150,000,000, and it could support at least double that number. Nor would the migration of large numbers of white people to Africa necessarily mean the decline of the Negro race in its home lands. Africa needs and can adequately support a much larger Negro population than it now has.

July 15, 1942

JAPS TO FARM IN ARKANSAS. (Pathfinder, July 11) Ten thousand Japanese evacuees from the restricted district of California are to be settled on 10,000 acres of rich delta land in Desha County, Ark., just south of where the Arkansas River flows into the Mississippi. They will first be set to clearing the area of second growth timber, which will yield cross ties, staves, heading blocks and lumber, and later they will grow such crops as cotton, oats, soybeans, alfalfa, corn and vegetables -- first for their own use, and then for national needs. This is a project of the War Relocation Authority. Many of the evacuees are experienced truck farmers.

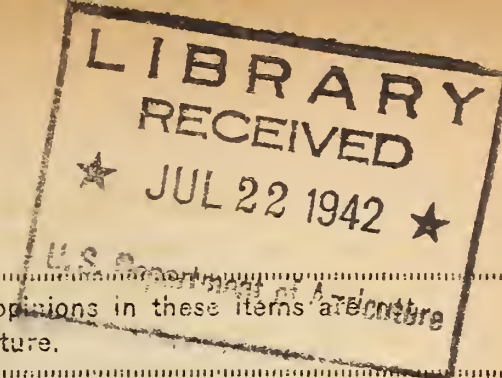
THE THREE ESSENTIALS. (Better Crops with Plant Food, June-July) In all probability, after more than six months of active participation in this war, there are not many people in this country who do not realize that with men, equipment, and food the three prime essentials of a concerted war effort, farming is more than "a way of life." The broad intelligence and specialized skills of the successful farmer are being recognized and appreciated along with outstanding performance among our armed forces and unprecedented production in munition factories.... There should be satisfaction in the fact that not only is his work becoming increasingly important but that it is being widely honored.

"For the long pull, food is as essential a weapon in this war as ships, planes, and tanks," declared Secretary of Agriculture Wickard in an address before the Federal-State Conference on War Restrictions in Washington, in May. "I'm sure that everyone in this group feels just as strongly as I do about the importance of food and other farm products in making victorious war. But I wonder if all of us realize what a huge job we are up against in undertaking to supply Food for Freedom. There are recent developments which bring out more clearly than ever the great urgency of increasing and speeding the flow of farm products. That's our main concern here in the Department of Agriculture, and each day the necessity for all-out effort becomes plainer."

MORE WOODEN BEEHIVES ALLOWED. (Victory, June 30) Beekeepers of the United States, called upon by the Government to increase honey production to assist in offsetting shortages of sugar and beeswax, will benefit by the terms of an amendment to the farm machinery and equipment order. Previously permitted production of all beekeepers' supplies was 100 per cent of 1940 output. This is now altered to allow manufacture of 133 per cent of the hives produced during the base period, provided those to be made are of wooden construction. Production of metal hives is still subject to the terms of the original order.

SPECIFIC PRICES SET FOR WHEAT MILLFEEDS. (War Letter for Agriculture July 6) Specific maximum prices have been set by OPA for wheat millfeeds at various basing points over the country. Previously these were under the general price regulation. The new ceiling prices will approximate closely the general price level but previous disparities in ceilings will be eliminated. Special control measures will curb price advances by some 3,000 domestic wheat flour mills in such millfeed types as bran, standard middlings, flour middlings, gray shorts, brown shorts, mill-run wheat feed, reddog and feed flour.

The Daily Digest



Prepared by the Press Service for the use of USDA employees. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department of Agriculture.

Washington, D.C., July 16, 1942

CONVERT APPLE JACK PLANTS. (Food Industries, July) Wartime conditions have created a shortage of concentrated apple juice and pectin, and they also have thrown many apple brandy plants into disuse. So two problems can be solved by making pectin and boiled cider in the idle brandy plants. Both the concentrated apple juice and boiled pectin are used in large volume not only in the preserving industry but also in making confections and ice cream. Pectin is on the priority list not so much because of its increasing industrial demand as because of the great demand for it as a war material in the treatment of burns and for other medicinal purposes. Most of the idle plants are located in the apple growing sections, and they are not equipped with the proper type of cookers, coolers, stills and other equipment for efficient use in the production of grain alcohol. Besides fruit alcohol produced from apples is too costly, as it takes about 5 bu. of apples to make 1 gal. of alcohol.

FAT SALVAGE CAMPAIGN. (Editorial in Butchers' Advocate, July 8) It will take a few weeks for the government's fat salvage campaign to gain momentum. A similar test campaign in Chicago last fall and winter started with a collection of a few thousand pounds of cooking grease a week, worked up to close to 100,000 pounds weekly, enough to convince the government that a national campaign would get results. It should be understood that this campaign is based on a patriotic appeal — to get glycerine needed in war industry from waste fats and greases which housewives bring to the meat market. No one is going to make any money — neither the housewife who contributes her waste fats, the butcher who takes it, nor the renderer who collects it. All will do their share alike in the great war effort.

There are many ways through which the meat dealer can build good will with his trade: 1) By making it easy for the housewife to handle her kitchen grease through proper instruction as to the type of container necessary; 2) By setting aside necessary space for collecting the receptacles in which the grease is to come so that the renderer can pick it up without waste of time or efficiency; 3) By regarding the campaign in terms of patriotism, not money.

CRESTED WHEAT HAY. (Successful Farming, July) Probably one of the best forages for wintering range cattle, is the verdict of Wyoming experiment station workers comparing wheatgrass hay with native hay. The wheatgrass produced seven times as much meat per acre. It also topped Sudan grass in meat production. It was cut in the early blossom stage.

SELF-PROPELLED COMBINE. (Capper's Farmer, July) A self-propelled 1-man combine is on the market. Now the tractor can fight weeds in the cornfield while the combine handles harvest. The new machines have a 12-foot cut.

July 16, 1942

SHARE-YOUR-CAR PLANS. (Consumers' Guide, July) Car sharing can make the present rubber supply go 2 or 3 times as far as normally. Car sharing is like finding 2 extra sets of tires for your car, or like making a present of 2 extra automobiles to everyone who now owns one. Pontiac, Michigan, has already set out to get the 2 extra sets of tires per car. A city-wide campaign accomplished this within one month: Raised the average riders per car from 1.4 persons to 2; cut the peak hour load on busses by a third; got children to walk to school (this reduced school bus passengers by 16.5 percent and traffic accidents by 12 percent); persuaded shopkeepers and offices to change their hours. Pontiac's goal, however, has not been reached yet, that is, 4 passengers for every car.

A shipbuilding company in California employs 25 thousand workers. All but 5 percent of them drive their own cars, some of them from a distance of 60 miles. The average worker drives 25 miles a day to and from work. He spends 90 minutes a day driving. If he shifted to a bus or street car he would have to spend $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours a day traveling if he could get on a bus or street car. When the company first looked into its transportation problem, it discovered that 1.6 men come to work in the average car. It also discovered that one-fifth of all its highly skilled critical workers would have to stop work if their tires gave out. Tackling this problem, the company first began a man-to-man campaign to increase the number of passengers per car. Within a short time it boosted the 1.6 passengers per car to 2.4 riders. Its goal, too, is 4 riders per car.

COOPERATION IN FARM LABOR PROBLEM. (Editorial in The Illinois Agricultural Association Record, July) To meet the farm labor situation it is necessary to have the utmost cooperation between farmers, state and county USDA war boards, the U.S. employment offices and other agencies. Such cooperation was demonstrated recently when WPA officials closed several projects in order to help furnish pickers for the strawberry crop in southern Illinois. In Pulaski and Alexander counties workers from WPA rolls and those secured from the U.S. Employment Service picked from one-fourth to one-third of the total acreage.

MEAT GLAZING EXPERIMENT. (Ice and Refrigeration, July) In view of the threatened shortage of paper for locker storage purposes, the Nebraska Experiment Station is conducting a meat glazing experiment in which tallow, lard and water are being tested. The meat is frozen at zero deg. Fahr., and if water is used, the meat is dipped into water at freezing temperature but still in the liquid stage. The dipping is repeated until a good coating of ice is secured. This glazing method has the advantage of cheapness and is less messy than the other methods tried. When lard or tallow is used the substance is melted just enough to be fluid and then is coated with just a single dip. Although no results have been released for publication as yet early indications are that the lard is the most efficient glaze since it doesn't have a tendency to crack in freezer storage. Other materials probably will be tried out in the experiments, such as paraffin and a mixture of lard and tallow.

July 16, 1942

TIRES PROVIDED FOR FARM IMPLEMENTS DELIVERED "BARE-FOOTED". (War Letter for Agriculture, July 13) Purchasers of new and rebuilt tractors, farm implements, and other vehicles sold without tires will be able to get casings and tubes for them if they meet certain conditions announced by OPA. A local War Price and Rationing Board may issue original equipment certificates when the buyer of a new or rebuilt vehicle which is to be put to an eligible use submits an affidavit from the seller setting forth a satisfactory reason for delivery without tires and tubes.

This action is designed to take care of the original equipment needs of a large number of vehicles, particularly farm machinery, which have been delivered "bare-footed". Mere change-over from steel wheels to wheels requiring rubber tires does not come under this classification, however. Certificates for the purchase of tractor or implement tires only may be issued for original equipment or replacement on tractors and combines, and only implement tires may be granted for other farm implements.

MAY MAKE WOODEN SOLE SHOES IN VOLUME. (Hide and Leather and Shoes, July 4) A shoe company is experimenting with methods of making wooden soled shoes in volume and company stylists are reportedly convinced that wooden soles appear to be a "necessity" in view of the sole leather situation. One designer says: "With many of the materials used in wedge heel and platform sole shoes restricted for civilian use, manufacturers are looking around for replacements and wood may be one of these....The soles are made on turning lathes, resulting in a precision turned sole, properly hollowed out for the heel and the ball of the foot, with correctly shaped arch. One sole is designed with a solid bottom and a lot of rocker, and the other with a hinged bottom, which automatically eliminates some of the rocker. Hard maple and sugar pine are two favored woods for the work."

COMMODITIES IN PUERTO RICO, VIRGIN ISLANDS SUBJECT TO OPA RATIONING. (Victory, July 7) The OPA has been given rationing authority over all commodities in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Only sales to the United States armed forces, the Maritime Commission, Panama Canal, Coast and Geodetic Survey, Coast Guard, Civil Aeronautics Authority, National Advisory Commission for Aeronautics, and the Office of Scientific Research and Development are exempt. Export sales from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands will be subject to OPA's rationing control, but will also be governed by the export control exercised by the Board of Economic Warfare.

GERMANS DEVISE NEW PLYWOOD BARREL. (Foreign Commerce Weekly, June 27) A German trade paper reports the successful manufacture of a plywood barrel designed to save both iron and wood. This barrel, which has convex walls and concave bottom and lid, is made from very thin strips of peeled veneer. The walls of the barrel are wound in puttee fashion in two to three overlapping layers. Several advantages are claimed for this barrel. Low-quality lumber can be used in its construction, and the saving obtained by the use of plywood barrels as against stave barrels amounts to 40 percent in the case of those intended for dry materials and 60 percent in those for liquids. The saving in iron for barrels having the same size and sturdiness is 30 percent and 75 percent, respectively.

July 16, 1942

PLASTIC CORK. (National Butter and Cheese Journal, July) A Kankakee, Ill., company announces an improved plastic cork coating that stops dripping from condensation or sweating pipes, walls, ceilings, tanks, etc. It is spread $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch thick over metal, concrete, brick, plaster, tile, wood, composition, galvanized or painted surfaces, corners, angles or corrugated ceilings with an ordinary paint brush.

STEEL FOR HORSESHOES AND NAILS. (The Southern Planter, July) About 96 percent of the 12 million horses and mules which are old enough to work are used in agriculture. The increased use of horses on highways and hard surfaced roads, due to tire and gas restrictions, has created a greater demand among farmers for more horseshoes and horseshoe nails. Normally this demand requires 17,500 tons of steel annually.

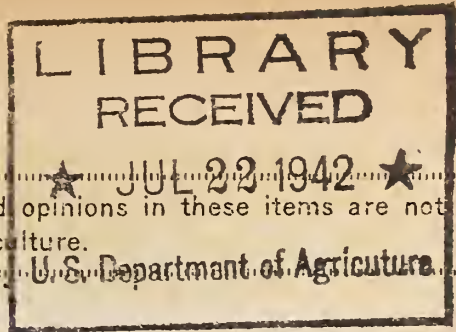
N.J. CANNING AND DEHYDRATION. (New Jersey Farm and Garden, July) At least thirty-four New Jersey canneries already are operating or are polishing up their machinery and equipment, getting ready for what is expected to be a record pack of fruits and vegetables. This is the greatest number of canning plants to operate since World War I. Despite difficulty in obtaining equipment and threatened with shortages of containers and labor, operators have been able to enlarge the capacity of most of the established plants. Several are being reopened after having been shut down for a number of years.

ALYCE CLOVER. (Better Crops with Plant Food, June, July) Alyce clover is a comparatively new crop, introduced about 30 years ago from Asia. It is finding a rather important place in Florida and other southern states where it is used as a hay, cover, and seed crop. General information on growing Alyce clover is given in Florida Experiment Station Press Bulletin 570, Alyce Clover.

OPA RAISES PRICE CEILINGS ON 1942 PACK OF CANNED DRIED FRUITS. (War Letter for Agriculture, July 6) OPA retail price ceilings on the 1942 pack of canned and dried fruits will be raised and present March prices will prevail until the new packs reach the store shelves. OPA cautioned retailers against any increase in the prices now charged for canned and dried fruits. These goods were all packed last season and are under a ceiling at the highest levels reached in March. Among the items that will carry higher prices when the 1942 pack reaches retail stores are: Canned peaches, pears, apricots, applesauce, fruit juices, raisins, dried apples, dried peaches, dried apricots, and dried pears.

MORE LAND NOW FARMED IN BELGIUM. (Foreign Commerce Weekly, July 4) The area devoted to agriculture in Belgium has been further enlarged by 5 to 10 percent for the present crop year, after having been expanded in 1940-41. The planned increases amount to 35,000 hectares (hectare=2.471 acres) for wheat, 25,000 hectares for rye, 20,000 hectares for potatoes, and 9,000 hectares for sugar beets. If successfully harvested these acreages would suffice to render Belgium independent of imports of the above mentioned products, say European press reports.

The Daily Digest



Prepared by the Press Service for the use of USDA employees. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department of Agriculture.

Washington, D.C., July 17, 1942

FROZEN FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PRICE CEILINGS INCREASED. (War Letter for/ July 13) By OPA action price ceilings on the 1942 pack of frozen fruits and vegetables will be lifted at all levels of distribution. The first step -- a pricing formula for frozen food packers of fruits and vegetables -- already has been announced. Additional measures to afford corresponding price-relief to wholesale and retail distributors of frozen fruits and vegetables will be forthcoming shortly. Similar adjustments will be made for processors, wholesalers, and retailers of jams, jellies, and preserves.

Coincident with the announcement on frozen foods, OPA advised that at the opening of the 1942 crop marketing period early in September, peanuts and peanut butter either will be removed from the general price ceiling or adjustments will be made. No action is being taken on peanuts until the new crop comes in, since it would be of no benefit to the producer and might lead to excessive price increases before the prospective bumper new crops move to market.

PANAMA: ECONOMY OF A STRATEGIC NATION. (Article by this title in Foreign Commerce Weekly, July 4) With few exceptions agricultural production in Panama in 1941 remained near the 1940 level, although the Government inaugurated a program which, it is anticipated, will begin to show results during 1942. This calls for more intensive cultivation of such staple crops as potatoes, rice, and coffee, with possible experiments with other subsistence crops. The Government took steps to protect consumers against profiteering by appointing a price-control committee which has put a maximum price on potatoes and a limited number of other commodities.

PACKAGES FOR DEHYDRATED FOODS. (Food Industries, July) One of the solutions to the problem of packaging dried eggs in the 5-oz. containers desired by the British came out of the cereal industry. Cereal manufacturers, as well as others, will package for the government millions of 5-oz. containers of dried eggs. Some 10 companies have been awarded contracts to make a total of some 56,000,000 lb. of dried eggs in 5-oz. packages. The 5-oz. packages being used for dried eggs are of three types. One has an inner lamination of unbleached greaseproof material, with asphalt as the laminating agent. Another has an inner liner of paper and cellophane or glassine and cellophane and the third had a double overwrap. All are heavily waxed, and all are greaseproof, moistureproof and lightproof. And for special use in shipments to Hawaii, a glass jar is employed, but this has the disadvantage of not being lightproof.

One company which expects to supply dehydrated vegetables for Army, Navy and Lease-Lend will package them in 10-lb. hermetically sealed tins or 50-lb. moistureproof fiber drums. Another company reports that its

July 17, 1942

sales of onion powder have all been in 5-gal. friction top tin cans, while onion flakes and chips are being packaged in double corrugated cartons with sealed waxed liners. On orders for the government, this company has been using 5-gal. tin cans for both powder and flakes.

COMMERCIAL DEHYDRATION OF FOOD IN WARTIME. This is background information on the FfF Program. It discusses dehydration of fruits and vegetables, soup, apples, citrus juice concentrates, eggs, milk, butter, and meat; location of dehydrating plants; dried foodstuffs in Great Britain. Available from Office of Information, USDA, Washington, D.C.

CUSTOM WORK. (Successful Farming, July) The necessity of doubling up on farm machinery and employing custom equipment is producing a multitude of questions. Furthermore, owners of large, expensive farm equipment have hesitated to do custom work because there are no standard prices for such services. Ohio State University engineers, at Columbus, have prepared Extension Bulletin No. 221 to meet this rising difficulty. It gives complete information.

"WE'LL MAKE WORK SHOES FOR WOMEN." (Many leading manufacturers of women's shoes are said to be ready and willing to make work shoes for women if they have the information about such shoes and the potential market. Many personal interviews are reported in Hide and Leather and Shoes for July 4, in the second of a series of articles on possibilities of opening a new market for women's work shoes. This first installment, published on June 13, gave data on the number of women employed and their occupations.) In 1941 about 500 shoe manufacturers produced the staggering total of over 182 million pairs of women's shoes. This does not include footwear classified as misses' shoes nor any in the athletic, part leather and part fabric, all fabric, slipper, or beach sandal classifications. The production of footwear in the "women's shoes" classification alone last year represented about four pairs for every woman in the country. In this single classification there were shoes designed for practically every occasion and purpose of feminine wear with one notable exception -- there were no shoes specifically designated for work wear. It is indicated that the industry wholly neglected to recognize the vitally important clothing needs of some 13 million women who last year spent a large part of their time working in factories, stores, offices, and other places of employment. Women who work--millions of them--have been left to choose between two general types of footwear for their working hours. Dress shoes which had generally become too worn or shabby for the purpose for which they were purchased; or the so-called "sensible" and "comfort" types of shoes. The single exception to this was in the nursing field. Many manufacturers produce "nurses' shoes" in a wide range of prices. This field is profitable. Most of the footwear so classified is well suited for the needs of women in the nursing profession. Most of these shoes are not suitable for general work wear, in the opinion of foot health authorities and of employed women who were questioned during the course of this study.

INCREASE IN IOWA LOCKER PLANTS (Ice and Refrigeration, July) Recent figures compiled by the Iowa Department of Agriculture showed 550 locker plants in operation in that state at the close of 1941. This is an increase of 13 for the year. Of the total number of plants, 464 were main plants and 86 were branch plants.

July 17, 1942

WOOD PIPES CARRY WATER FOR CANTONMENTS, WAR INDUSTRY PLANTS.

(Science Service release, July 3) Wood pipe is recommended for use in cantonments and new war industry plants and their housing areas, to release steel urgently needed elsewhere, in the current issue of Military Engineer. Wood pipe has a number of advantages. It can be laid rapidly, does not rust or corrode, and its natural tendency to swell when wet makes it automatically tighten its own joints, doing away with need for calking. Wood pipe kept well filled with water lasts indefinitely. Decay organisms and burrowing insects do not like water-soaked wood. A number of cities in the timbered areas of the West have used wood pipe in city mains for several decades; and when the first wooden water pipes laid in New Orleans, in 1793, were dug up after being in service for more than 200 years, they were found to be in good condition.

Even newer is a recently patented kind of plywood tubing. Strips of thin plywood are wound spirally over a form and subjected to pressure and heat. The form is then slipped out of one end. Alternate strips are wound over each other and cemented firmly together with plastic glue. The tubes can be used not only for carrying liquids, gases, etc., but as braces and supports in airplanes, light buildings and similar purposes.

FROZEN EGGS OFFER DISTRIBUTION OPPORTUNITIES.

(Quick Frozen Foods, June) Those equipped to handle quick frozen fruits, vegetables and other products can also handle frozen eggs. This is particularly true of firms catering to institutional outlets, bakers, ice cream plants, hospitals and other users of this type. Frozen eggs are here to stay when the war is over. Today only eggs of the highest quality are preserved by reputable canners. Volume has grown by leaps and bounds; one large egg producer breaks 200,000 eggs per day during the season.

In baking, frozen eggs impart "lightness" and greater leavening power to the products made. In other words, they give more "volume" to the cake than do shell eggs. Frozen eggs save time and labor. Users simply thaw out their daily requirements and use the eggs as needed. Thus, the job of breaking eggs in the bakeshop by inexperienced and more costly labor is eliminated. Also, the danger and responsibility of allowing one bad egg to accidentally spoil a batch of good eggs or a batch of food product is shifted upon the packer of frozen eggs. Frozen eggs save space in storage, in shipping and in use in the user's plant. In the manufacture of mayonnaise, salad dressing, ice cream and similar food products, frozen eggs give the product greater consistency and emulsification.

SPAIN'S HONEY CULTURE GROWING.

(Foreign Commerce Weekly, June 27) With the view to increasing honey output, beekeepers in the Valencia area of Spain are being urged to adopt the American system of moving hives from one part of the country to another to take advantage of the seasonal blooming of flowers. Owing to the current sugar shortage, honey culture is becoming increasingly important in Spain. Honey which normally sells at 5 cents per pound in Spain now costs nearly \$1.

IMPORTED CANNED BEEF FOR ARMED FORCES.

(Victory, June 30) All large stocks of imported canned beef in the United States have been frozen and made available to the armed forces. All stocks held by any person in excess of 5,000 pounds in any one place, in contiguous places, or in transit in the United States are required to be set aside for 90 days under allocation to the armed forces.

SWISS MEALS MORE FRUGAL NOW. (Foreign Commerce Weekly, June 27) Eating habits in Switzerland, a country filled with famous hotels and resorts, are veering away from the luxurious toward the frugal, and only three courses are now being served at one meal. Indicative of the dwindling variety of food is the fact that corn is taking the place of rice and white flour is used for baking cookies and similar delicacies--not bread. Shortage of grains has brought about shifts in baking methods too; hereafter only round-shaped bread will be made, as such loaves require less flour; breadstuffs made with yeast may be sold only 2 days after being baked.

Switzerland, known as a land of cheese, may have more of this dairy food available than formerly, as spring usually means an improvement in the milk supply. However, only 15 grams of butter will be served per person at breakfast. Limited amounts of sugar for hot drinks can be obtained in restaurants, but, offsetting this improvement, fish is to be prepared only for main courses and fish hors d'oeuvres are to be stricken from menus.

MORE WOOL FOR MIXING PROVIDED. (Victory, July 7) The War Production Board July 1 took action intended to increase the amount of woollen cloth to be manufactured for civilians out of the limited quantity of new wool available. The wool conservation order has been extended for six months and amended in several important respects. Most important of the changes is one that decreases the amount of wool available for all-wool fabrics but increases the amount of new wool available for cloth that is mixed with reworked or reused wool or cotton or rayon. The amount of new wool to be used for the armed forces continues unrestricted.

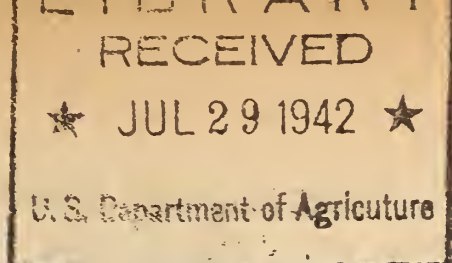
ABSORPTION OF MOISTURE BY APPLE BOXES. (Ice and Refrigeration, July) High relative humidity is required in cold storage rooms in order to prevent the shriveling of apples. It is difficult to maintain humidity at high levels, especially at the beginning of the storage period. One of these difficulties lies in the fact that the fruit is often stored in dry wooden boxes which absorb large quantities of moisture from the air. It was found that a dry field box may absorb over a pound of water. A light and dry New England box absorbs half as much. Shredded oiled paper used for scald prevention is also highly hygroscopic material.

for Agriculture

NEW SALVAGE CAMPAIGN REACHES RURAL AREAS. (War Letter./July 6) A new, intensified WPB Nation-wide salvage program soon will reach into the scrap heap on every farm and even into the waste fats of the kitchens. The over-all campaign started Monday, July 13. The 12,000 State and local salvage committees already in existence will have the assistance of a national advertising campaign, sponsored by private industry. Also assisting will be the farm implement industry, which will aid in the movement of farm scrap in a National Scrap Harvest. USDA War Boards have been asked to help direct the campaign in rural areas.

U.S. TRUCK CONSERVATION CORPS. (Victory, June 30) ODT has launched one of its major campaigns--organization of a U.S. Truck Conservation Corps designed to assure the continued and uninterrupted flow of the material of war and the necessities of civilian life. A booklet entitled, "America's Trucks--Keep 'em Rolling," has been prepared by the vehicle maintenance section of the division of motor transport, explaining in detail the basic rules which should be followed by every truck operator and maintenance man during the emergency.

The Daily Digest



Prepared by the Press Service for the use of USDA employees. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department of Agriculture.

Washington, D.C., July 20, 1942

AXIS GRAIN PROSPECTS. (American Miller, July) With Hitler reported last month as ordering full production in Holland's 2,000 windmills--to grind western European grain, the question of the Axis grain supply became the focus of general interest. English trade sources in June estimated Europe's 1941 wheat production (except Russia) at 3,000,000 tons above that of 1940. Except for corn and rice, the 1941 supplies, because of careful rationing, have been sufficient within Germany. But the anti-Reich pressure developing in occupied zones, where rationing is not "careful" but severe, is cumulative; on 1942 crop outturns, as well as on military campaigns, the war's outcome may hinge.

PRODUCE QUICK FROZEN LAMB ON TIERRA DEL FUEGO. (The National Provisioner, July 11) Construction of a quick freezing plant of 60,000 lbs. daily capacity for lamb cuts, at Rio Grande, on Fireland (Tierra del Fuego) at the tip of South America, has just been completed. This project required the assembly of necessary machinery and parts in Buenos Aires, its transportation over 2,000 miles by water. Notwithstanding, the plant was completed on schedule and produced about 1,000,000 lbs. of lamb cuts within six weeks. Lamb carcasses are cut into uniform consumer units, trimmed of excess fat, partly boned, wrapped in moisture-proof cellophane and quick frozen.

VETERINARY ASSOCIATION EXHIBITS. (Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, July) At the convention of the association in Chicago, Aug. 16-21, will be shown a comprehensive exhibit of food products used by "the best-fed army in the world." Nearly 100 linear feet of refrigerated display space will be devoted to displays of fresh meats, meat products, butter and cheese, poultry and eggs, fish and other animal meat foods in all the special forms in which they have been developed for supplying United States forces throughout the world. The specially developed field rations in canned form and emergency rations of various kinds will also be demonstrated. Specially prepared BAI pathological specimens, exhibits and charts descriptive of livestock disease control measures will be shown.

CULTIVATION OF DRUG PLANTS ENCOURAGED IN NEW ZEALAND. (Foreign Commerce Weekly, July 11) With a view to augmenting reduced stocks of various important drugs, Great Britain is encouraging cultivation of experimental crops of a number of medicinal plants in New Zealand. The dried leaves of foxglove, thornapple, henbane, and the roots of deadly nightshade are frequently sent to England for extraction of essential drugs. The foxglove, or digitalis, is a powerful cardiac stimulant, and the deadly nightshade, or belladonna, is employed as an anti-spasmodic in various diseases, and for dilating the pupil of the eye to discover errors in refraction.

July 20, 1942

FARM SERVICES EXEMPTED FROM PRICE CEILINGS. (War Letter for Agriculture, July 6) Charges for services rendered on a farm in connection with the planting, cultivating, or harvesting of crops, the raising of livestock or poultry, or preparation of livestock products for market have been freed from price ceilings by OPA. The farm services excepted are primarily seasonal services. Many were not performed in March, the base pricing period, and many others are services customarily performed by one farmer for another. Difficulty of determining the ceilings and danger of damage or spoilage of crops made the exceptions necessary. Services performed on farm buildings -- such as re-roofing a barn, the repair of plumbing in a farmhouse, or the repair of farm machinery, are all subject to price ceilings. Examples of the exempted services are: Plowing, planting, drilling, cultivating, fertilizing, spraying, treating seed, butchering, threshing, baling hay or husking corn, silo filling, shelling corn, crushing limestone, sheep shearing, dipping, pruning and grafting, tiling, terracing, potato digging, cotton picking, mowing, binding, grinding hay and grain and contract feeding.

ICE COMPANY USES WOODEN TIRES. (Ice and Refrigeration, July) A Buffalo, N.Y. Company is experimenting with wooden tires for its delivery trucks. Developed from wedge-shaped blocks of elm, about 14 pieces are needed for a complete tire, which is built onto the steel rim of a wheel. There are interlocking connections between each block and the complete tire is held together by a steel band sunk into the outside edge. No glue is used.

WPB TAKES CONTROL OF DOMESTIC HIDES. (Victory, July 7) The War Production Board on July 3 took control of the entire supply of domestic cattle hides, calf and kip skins, and buffalo hides. (A kip is the skin of a yearling calf.) The hides will be allocated equitably among tanners to increase the production of leather for military purposes, and to direct certain grades of hides into leather for essential civilian use. Hides not suitable for military use or for such essential civilian use as industrial belting and shoes will be available for less essential products.

LOCKER OPERATORS CAN HELP IN FATS CAMPAIGN. (Quick Frozen Foods, June) It is the patriotic duty of every locker plant operator throughout the nation to work hand in hand with the War Production Board program for the saving of waste fats and household greases. This program is vital to the war effort. Substitution must be made for the fats and oils formerly imported from the Far East. Moreover glycerine, made from these waste fats, is needed by our armed forces for explosives and other military uses. A newspaper campaign, radio, and other means will be used to bring the program to the attention of the housewife.

DEHYDRATED FOOD INDUSTRY. (Food Industries, July) There are 30 members in the National Dehydrators Association, only 18 of whom are active dehydrators, the others being distributors or equipment manufacturers. The members do 90 percent of all the dehydrating of fruits and vegetables in the country. Egg and milk driers are a separate group, and number about 60. Approximately 100 products are dehydrated by all manufacturers. As a rule egg and milk driers stick to their respective

July 20, 1942

products, several of the others specialize in one or two products such as potatoes, onions or tomatoes, although their equipment could be used for other products if the market warranted it. One or two companies dehydrate fruits alone--and perhaps one or two vegetables to fill in between seasons.

At present most of the foods produced go to the government, and of the remainder by far the larger part goes to distributors; few dehydraters attempt to distribute their own products to the retail trade. Sales in 1941 amounted to about 20,000,000 lb. The industry's capacity is now about 100,000,000 lb. per year.

OFFICES SET UP FOR TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION. (Victory, July 7)

A general order authorizing the establishment of joint information offices throughout the United States to aid motor carriers in stepping up the efficiency of their operations has been issued by the Office of Defense Transportation. The plan is intended to make it easier for common, contract and private carriers to comply with general orders of the ODT for wartime conservation of trucks and tires. The joint information office will assist carriers in working out arrangements for compliance with ODT truck conservation orders.

SUGAR PROVIDED FOR FARM WORKERS; GENERAL RATION ALSO INCREASED.

(War Letter for Agriculture, July 13) Farmers who board seasonal labor will be granted extra sugar allowances at the rate of a half pound a week per person. An OPA order to this effect is intended to cover threshers, corn huskers, silo fillers, and other workers, whom a farmer employs and boards in addition to his own family during the harvest season. Farmers may file applications immediately for the additional allowances with local War Price and Rationing Boards. The farmer must state that the War Ration books of his hired men have been or will be surrendered to him and will not be used by him, or that his hired men have no books.

A 2-pound extra ration of sugar to consumers on sugar ration stamp No. 7 was authorized by OPA beginning this week. An extra quantity of sugar will be made available also to industrial and institutional users as an increase in their July and August allotment.

CHANGES MADE IN FRUIT AND VEGETABLE REQUIREMENTS; TOP GRADES; TOP GRADES PREFERRED OVER CAN SIZE FOR FOODS. (Food Industries, July) A new amendment to the WPB Canned Foods Supplementary Order made it clear that the grade preference of fruits and vegetables packed for military use and Lend-Lease during 1942 takes precedence over the can-size preference. The grade preferences vary among commodities but in most cases fancy, choice or extra standard grades are sought by government authorities. Cannerys are required to set aside for the government a fixed percentage of the 1942 pack of various grades of 11 fruits and 12 vegetables, including fruit cocktail, peaches, California freestone peaches, pears, asparagus, lima beans, string beans, sweet corn, peas, tomatoes, tomato catsup, tomato juice, apples, applesauce, apricots, RSP cherries, sweet cherries, pineapple, fresh prunes, beets, carrots, pumpkin and spinach.

July 20, 1942

NEW BRITISH FOOD RESTRICTIONS. (London report in The Journal of the American Medical Association, July 4) The British government announces new food restrictions. Meals are limited to a maximum of three courses. Provision will be made to prohibit the sale of fish, game and poultry in any hotel or restaurant on specified days in order that these articles may be more readily available for domestic consumption. For the remainder of the war the government will discourage, other than for public purpose, the holding of luncheons and dinners attracting large numbers of people. The serving of food after 11 p.m. will be prohibited except to residents at hotels and establishments catering for night workers. The effect of this prohibition will be to stop the sale of food at night clubs and similar places. At present five courses --hors d'oeuvres, soup, main dish, fish, meat or poultry-- are fairly common in hotels.

SHORTAGES HIT CANDY INDUSTRY. (Food Industries, July) Sugar shortage, increased scarcity of cocoa and other wartime problems of the candy industry were focal points of discussion at the National Confectioner's Association annual convention in New York. Of immediate concern to the confectionery men is the shipping shortage which has depleted stocks of coconut oil and other ingredients. However, NCA speakers held hopes of replacement materials, such as ^{molasses} corn products and foods containing natural sugar, to take the place of cane sugar. Among exhibits at the convention were a sweet potato candy and another confection made from bread. A tabulation of farm foods which showed the importance of the candy industry as an outlet for agricultural products revealed that 20 to 25 million dollars of dairy products were consumed last year by candy manufacturers. In addition, domestic crops of nuts, sugar, corn products and honey were used to a greater extent than ever before.

TARPAULIN FUMIGATION OF GRAIN. (American Miller, July) The development and marketing of a new plastic-coated tarpaulin has solved a problem of long standing for millers, seedsmen, and feed men--that of fumigating insect-infested material not located conveniently to adequate fumigating facilities. It is a satisfactory solution to the problem of eliminating infestation from used bags. The new tarpaulin is made of a light duck fabric and is heavily coated on one side with ethylcellulose, a plastic material. On the reverse side, the coating is lighter. Tarpaulin fumigation may be performed in any place where there is concrete floor or other air-tight surface on which to stack the material. A line of copper or plastic tubing is run from under the edge of the tarpaulin and attached to a fumigant cylinder or a container-discharge device.

DISEASES LOWER MILK, MEAT PRODUCTION. (Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, July) British Minister of Agriculture Hudson has estimated that diseases of dairy cattle involved an annual loss of 50 million gallons of milk as well as appreciable quantities of meat. With a view of reducing such losses, the minister hopes to introduce at an early date a voluntary scheme for control of dairy-cattle diseases, an important feature of which would be the regular veterinary examination of dairy cows by the practitioner.

The Daily Digest

LIBRARY
RECEIVED

★ JUL 29 1942 ★

Prepared by the Press Service for the use of USDA employees. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department of Agriculture.

Washington, D. C., July 21, 1942

OIL FROM OITICICA NUTS. (Foreign Commerce Weekly, July 11)

The Brazilian Government has cooperated in establishing the oiticica oil industry. Besides penalties for the felling of oiticica trees fines have been established for the picking of unripe nuts. The Government has prohibited the export of oiticica seeds.

At a Government station in the State of Parahyba, extensive research in connection with oiticica is carried on. With a view to adapting the oiticica to soils other than alluvial, grafting of the oiticica to the oiti and similar trees, which are more accustomed to a dearth of water and nutrition in the soil, is being studied. Bud grafting on seedlings has resulted in crops of seeds in 2 or 3 years instead of the normal 7 years or more....

The total number of oiticica trees in Brazil is unknown. Although the region of growth is fairly well defined, it has not been fully exploited, and within the region new stands of trees are discovered each year. Industrial possibilities for the oil have not been thoroughly explored; new uses continue to develop. Its value as a substitute for tung is attested by the fact that the United States War Production Board has placed it under the same priority control as tung. Oiticica does not possess all of tung's qualities, but has excellent properties of its own. Used together, the two oils may be of more service than either alone. If, when tung-oil shipments are resumed after the war, oiticica can maintain a competitive price in the market, its future seems assured.

BREEDING DISEASE-RESISTANT CROPS. (Science, July 17)

The production of new varieties of crops, even those bred for resistance to some important disease, often proves them very susceptible to some other disease which, even with extensive testing, might not be discovered by the breeder prior to its release. The danger of introducing a gene for susceptibility to some other disease while introducing one or more for resistance to the disease under consideration may be avoided by using the backcross method of breeding. In a self-pollinated crop like wheat the progeny of a hybrid will become homozygous for the genes of the recurrent parent with a sufficient number of back-crosses. Only the gene or genes being introduced must be maintained by selection. Therefore, the new variety will be exactly like the recurrent parent except for the introduced genes and perhaps some other very closely linked ones.

We have used this method at the University of California in breeding wheats resistant to bunt, *Tilletia tritici*, and to stem rust, *Puccinia graminis*, and find that the derived varieties are exactly like the recurrent parent in all characters except for resistance to the two diseases mentioned. Their reaction to mildew, septoria, leaf rust and other diseases has not been changed. In cross-pollinated crops, like corn, backcrossing to a heterozygous parent is equivalent to one generation of inbreeding; therefore, this method of breeding may not be so directly applicable, especially if such a crop loses vigor when inbred. In the case of corn it should be very useful in improving inbred lines. Fred N. Briggs

July 21, 1942

SPANIARDS ENVISAGE "CORK POOL" (Foreign Commerce Weekly, July 11) The Spanish Government publication Archivo advocates a cork pool for Spain and Portugal, which normally produce about 70 percent of the total world yield. Both countries would profit by concerted action in banning or heavily taxing exports of raw cork and encouraging exports of finished cork products. This action, it is said, would increase the national income of both countries and create new ~~cork~~-manufacturing industries. The United States is the largest single buyer, according to Archivo.

NEW QM METHODS SAVE RUBBER, SHIPPING SPACE (Hide and Leather and Shoes, July 11) The Quartermaster General's office announces saving of rubber and conservation of shipping space by changing overshoe specifications and adopting a new method for packaging shoes. A change in specification of the regular overshoe resulted several months ago in an estimated saving of several hundred thousand pounds of crude rubber in procurements for the early part of this year. The latest change, involving the substitution of a waterproof top for a rubber top, will save an estimated 556,000 pounds of crude rubber on each million pairs.

The Army will also save at least 40 percent shipping space as a result of a new method of packaging shoes. The revised specification also saves approximately 15 cents on every case sent abroad or to posts, camps, and cantonments in continental United States. Formerly Army shoes were packed 12 pairs to the case, in a shoe box, wrapped individually in tissue paper. Under the new procedure the 12 boxes and tissue paper will be eliminated. Only a small amount of paper will be used and this will be waterproof and arranged in layers inside the case, which has been strengthened so it can stand up under the rough treatment during shipping.

OHIO FARM TRANSPORT PLANS (Cooperative Digest, July) Ohio co-ops and farm organizations, which own and operate close to 3,000 trucks, established the Ohio Agricultural Motor Transportation Council this spring, and put it to work developing a statewide conservation plan which has now been submitted to Washington for clearance. The plan is to establish "clearing houses" to pool available trucking facilities, maintain records and dispatching service for the movement of all farm products and supplies not covered within the 15-mile radius exemption, issue permits for all trucks and loads, and integrate back-hauls as efficiently as possible.

Also trucks of the Ohio Farm Bureau are no longer moving unless they carry full loads. Every effort is being made to provide the largest possible percentage of full loads on back-hauls, and regulations are to be set up so that trucks will make full load deliveries to a single unloading point wherever possible. The Bureau's 168 passenger cars are cooperating, and during the first three months of 1942 they reduced their mileage by more than 181,000 miles, as compared to the first quarter of 1941.

BETTER TOBACCO ON TREATED LAND (Western Tobacco Journal, July 14) At the Western Kentucky Experiment Substation at Princeton, land treated with limestone and superphosphate produced dark tobacco selling for \$45 an acre more than tobacco grown on untreated land. Where manure was used in addition to limestone and phosphate, the increased value was \$70 an acre. The rotation included two years of tobacco, one year of wheat, and three years of clover and grass. Two tons of limestone were used to the acre and 250 pounds of superphosphate applied on each tobacco crop.

July 21, 1942

MEXICAN FOOD SITUATION (Foreign Commerce Weekly, July 11) Total food supplies in Mexico for the current year are officially estimated to be adequate for consumption. The harvest of main staples such as corn, beans, and rice was sufficient, and substantial imports were made of deficit commodities such as wheat and lard. Only small deficits may develop during the present growing season--that is, before the harvest. Prices of foodstuffs have continued to rise until they are now out of proportion with the supply situation. Strong measures were recently taken by the Ministry of National Economy to control all supplies of corn, beans, and rice, and to affect price reductions at wholesale and retail.

VALUE OF RESEARCH IN WARTIME (Florists Exchange and Horticultural Trade World July 18) It took the experience of World War No. 1 to make this nation realize that only through a vigorous prosecution of scientific research could the United States attain economic as well as political independence. That research gave us selfsufficiency on such vital raw materials as nitrates, dyes and camphor. Were it not for this effort prompted by the needs of 1914-1918, we would be high and dry today, with these and many other materials wholly beyond our reach overseas, and with much of our industry paralyzed.

TENNESSEE BERRIES FOR BRITAIN (American Fruit Grower, July) Thousands of tons of Tennessee berries, processed by the sulfur-dioxide pack, will be sent to Britain this year. At the peak of the season, five plants in West Tennessee were turning out more than 1,000 barrels a day. Growers received 8¢ a pound and peak days returned to them \$25,000 to \$30,000 in addition to receipts for fresh berry shipments.

FIGURES TELL THE STORY (Extension Service Review, July) "What shall we do with all this food we are producing for the national war program?" is the question farmers asked me.

To find an answer in our particular county, I began to check up on our food production and food needs. The rural population of Columbia County (Ga.) is about 9,000. It would take approximately 270,000 dozen eggs to feed these people; and yet, according to the 1939 Census, the county is producing only 122,000 dozen eggs annually, or 45 percent of the number needed. To supply the pork, 5,400 hogs of about 250 pounds each are needed; but the census showed only 3,500 available, or 65 percent of our need. Approximately 36,000 gallons of sirup are required to meet the needs of the population of this county; yet we produced only 5,000, or about 14 percent. We should consume 675,000 gallons of milk. Our production was 765,000, or 90,000 gallons more of milk than were needed. However, 300,000 gallons were marketed in Augusta, so that in milk, too, the county was 210,000 gallons short.

Let us look at another side of this story. According to figures released by the State head of the Selective Service, 34 percent of the selectees examined in Columbia County were not capable of full military service. The United States Public Health Service tells us that a large percent of the health deficiencies for which boys were turned down by the Army were caused by poor nutrition. Brig. General Lewis B. Hershey, Director of the Selective Service System, estimated that one-third of the rejections of men for general military service were due either directly or indirectly to nutritional deficiency.

July 21, 1942

These are the facts that will answer anyone's question as to what we are going to do with the extra food produced in Columbia County. -W. E. Still, county agricultural agent, Columbia County, Ga.

CUBAN EXPORT EMBARGO ON LIVESTOCK, BEEF (Foreign Commerce Weekly, July 18) The Cuban Office of Price Regulation and Supply has extended for an indefinite period the embargo on the exportation from Cuba of cattle on the hoof and fresh chilled beef. The resolution states that the indefinite extension of the embargo, already twice extended for 30-day periods, does not preclude the possibility of subsequently permitting limited exports if this can be done without affecting the normal domestic beef supply. The resolution also created a commission to study Cuban beef production and supply, particularly the problem of determining production costs.

DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF WATTLE BARK FOR TANNING (Article by this title in Hide and Leather and Shoes, July 11) Because of the war, tanners are keenly interested in new tanning materials and in the improvement of others still available. A digest of a Science Bulletin (No. 168), published by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Union of South Africa, tells of the cultivation of wattle exclusively for use as a tanning material, and describes some of its characteristics as such.

METALS MORE SCARCE THAN EVER (Victory, July 14) The growing scarcity of metals was emphasized the other day in a report by WPB's Bureau of Industrial Conservation and WPB has placed bauxite and alumina--the raw material of aluminum--under complete control. Aluminum makes warplanes and our goal is 60,000 war planes--this year . . . WPB is taking steps to make certain that there's no waste of shipping space in vessels carrying war materials and supplies to our overseas troops and the troops of our allies . . . Because ODT has restricted the use of tank cars in hauls of less than 100 miles, thousands of these cars have been made available for long-haul service . . . An important effect of this will be to increase the amount of fuel oil which may be brought into the East to offset a dangerous shortage.

INSULATION BOARD FROM BAGASSE (American Fruit Grower, July) From the fibers remaining after the sugar juices have been squeezed from the cane stalks, a cold storage insulation has been developed as a substitute for the cork previously purchased from Spain. The insulation can be applied in the same manner as corkboard insulation. Before being felted into boards, the individual fibers are sterilized, waterproofed and protected from dry rot and fungus. The edges are coated on the job by applying hot or cold asphalt with a stiff brush at the time the block is set in place, thus assuring an unbroken closed surface over the entire wall.

The Daily Digest

LIBRARY
RECEIVED

★ JUL 29 1942 ★

Prepared by the Press Service for the use of USDA employees. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department of Agriculture.

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Washington, D. C., July 22, 1942

WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN. Continuation of relatively warm weather, together with sufficient soil moisture in most places was decidedly favorable for crop growth, although rain is needed in restricted areas. In the more eastern States many localities need moisture; the most extensive area includes northern Alabama, western Tennessee, extreme western Kentucky, southeastern Missouri, Arkansas, northeastern Louisiana, and much of Mississippi. Rains were decidedly helpful in southern Kansas, and in the area between the Lake region and Rocky Mountains, although parts of Montana are still dry. In the far Southwest good showers were fairly widespread. Some other sections are still dry; notably southwestern New Mexico where droughty conditions are becoming serious, with wells failing and cattle being moved out. Cessation of persistent, heavy rains over large sections of the Winter Wheat Belt has been followed by favorable weather and harvest of winter wheat has been largely accomplished; threshing is in progress. Winter wheat harvest has advanced into the more northern sections of the Wheat Belt and has begun in Montana; in Washington and northern Oregon there was some interruption by rain. In the Spring Wheat Belt, all small grains continue favorable progress, except that moisture is needed in Montana where considerable burning of spring wheat is reported in some localities.

Corn made good to excellent progress, although rain needed in some of western and southwestern sections of the Corn Belt. In the southwestern Plains corn needs rain, especially in northwestern Texas, the western portions of Oklahoma and Kansas, and parts of Nebraska; rains of the week were favorable in central-northern States. While temperatures were unusually high in the northwestern belt, no material damage to corn is apparent.

Uniformly high temperatures, light to moderate rain, and sunshine made a good cotton week, especially for holding weevils in check. Rain would be helpful locally in some central and western portions of the belt but, in general, the soil moisture situation is favorable.

Truck and miscellaneous crops are beginning to need rain in many eastern sections from Florida to Virginia, but from New Jersey northward many sections received beneficial showers. Scattered localities in central sections also need rain, but most truck crops made good progress. Pastures are beginning to need rain in some southern and southeastern sections, while the drought is becoming serious in southwestern New Mexico and parts of western Texas. Showers were of considerable benefit in Arizona and parts of the Pacific Northwest, but some ranges are becoming dry in the upper Rocky Mountain area and the eastern Great Basin. The week was more favorable for haying, with good progress reported in the Northeast and north-central sections. Showers delayed haying in the northern Rocky Mountain area and parts of the Pacific Northwest and caused some damage.

July 22, 1942

COOPERATIVE FARM TRUCKING. (Cooperative Digest, July) Livestock shipping associations affiliated with the Central Cooperative Association of South St. Paul, Minn., plus a few "for hire" truckers, this spring organized the Truckers Cooperative Warehouse Association. TCWA opened up for business with one fair-sized warehouse, situated midway between the loop and market districts of the Twin Cities. Before the first week was over, the business had turned up half a dozen worth-while contracts for return hauls. Now truckers bringing livestock into South St. Paul unload, have their trucks cleaned up, and go over to TCWA for whatever's headed their way. It may be a load of poultry feed, butter tubs going to an upstate creamery, linoleum, or window shades--anything a truck can carry. Result: Empty back-hauls are about unknown now to TCWA members.

In the Los Angeles area trucks operated by the Challenge Cream & Butter Association made a mileage saving in May that probably few co-ops can match. Challenge trucks sliced 66,000 miles off their total travels, covering 130,000 miles as compared to 196,000 in the same month of 1941. At that rate, Challenge saves the full life of a new truck every two months, and figures its operating costs some \$75,000 a month under 1941.

CONCRETE PAINT, SHATTERPROOF WINDOWS. (Science News Letter, July 18) Concrete floors can at last be painted with a paint that does not peel or wear off. The new product is essentially a dye which penetrates below the surface and retains its color as the concrete wears down.

You can shatterproof your own windows by painting on the inside a newly developed transparent coating which forms an elastic film and prevents flying splinters. The coating dries in an hour and can be removed when no longer wanted with a razor blade. In case you wish to blackout at the same time, a black opaque coating of similar nature is offered. It will last for a year and can be washed off with water.

WPB CONCENTRATES PAPER MANUFACTURE FOR WAR AND ESSENTIAL USE. (Victory, July 14) A broad program to conserve the country's paper supply and to assure provision of the volume and kind of paper required by the war program and essential civilian use has been announced by the Director of Industry Operations. The program is in the form of a series of orders specifying standardization and simplification practices for the paper industry. It replaces a voluntary plan put into effect late last year. Many kinds of paper, including some most familiar to the average citizen--writing paper, envelope paper, book paper, and ordinary tablet paper--are covered by the program. Such papers as newsprint, publication stock, wrapping papers, paperboard, and many types of specialty and industrial papers are not affected.

N. Y. RURAL ELECTRIC CO-OP LAW (Rural Electrification News, July) When Governor Lehman of New York signed the Rural Electric Cooperative Law recently, he made it possible for 40,000 New York farms to obtain the advantages of central-station electric service. In the State where Thomas Edison pulled the switch to let loose the world's first flood of electric power, 30 percent of the farms still struggle with kerosene lamps, wood-burning kitchen stoves, and primitive farm appliances.

The new law exempts the cooperatives from supervision by the Public Service Commission and the public service law, except that an

July 22, 1942

annual report must be filed with the Commission, and from franchise, excise, income, corporation, and mortgage taxes. Under it, five or more persons can organize a cooperative for the purpose of supplying electric service to its members, and the cooperative may make loans for house wiring and for electrical and plumbing appliances and equipment. The measure also provides a simple, set of rules for self-government of the cooperative, which will insure democratic control and nonprofit operation. The measure is similar to those now in effect in 24 other states.

MEDICINAL PLANTS AS A SIDELINE. (Florists Exchange and Horticultural Trade World, July 18) The medicinal plants garden at Ohio State University is the direct result of war, with three different colleges participating. The floriculture school is to conduct the propagation, germination, and cultivation of the plant; the pharmacy college is to do the assaying; and the veterinary college is to test the reaction of the various products obtained. It isn't the farmer whom we want to raise these plants but rather it is the greenhouse man. At the present time we can say definitely that the plants of Solanaceae group can be grown and be marketed quite readily. This group includes belladonna, hyoscyamus and stramonium. Plants that give off a volatile oil can also be raised, this group including coriander, phenol, caraway, anise seed and chenopodium. It is going to take hard work and some time, but drug raising in the United States has promising possibilities.

CONGESTION OF LIVESTOCK TRANSPORT APPEARS LIKELY. (The National Provisioner, July 18) With much of the country's live-stock population centered in the Corn Belt and processing in the area cut by the lines of heaviest railroad traffic, some agricultural and meat industry experts believe there may be serious transport and marketing congestion this fall and winter. The greatest danger is that the marketward movement of stock during the peak selling season this fall and winter might be so concentrated that it would be necessary to place embargoes on some marketing centers to insure orderly selling and efficient handling of live-stock.

Both the livestock population and the major meat packing centers are concentrated along the more important rail lines, particularly the East-West lines. Heavy fall and winter marketings will move in competition with the raw materials for war production, finished armaments, oil and troops. This war load will be very heavy by the end of 1942, particularly if coastal ship losses continue at their present rate and force more movement by rail. The East-West traffic will undoubtedly be heavier than that on many of the North-South railroads because of the location of the battle fronts. While trucks are still hauling most of the livestock to market centers, the railroads will be expected to carry a bigger share of marketings during the balance of the year and in the early months of 1943.

ALL-TIME RECORD FOR JOB PLACEMENTS IN MAY. (Victory, July 14) The number of jobs on farms and in industry filled by the U. S. Employment Service during May was nearly one-third more than that of the April placements, Paul V. McNutt, Chairman of the War Manpower Commission has announced.

July 22, 1942.

Farm jobs filled totaled 181,500 or $3\frac{1}{2}$ times as many as were filled in April. Except for the peak harvest months of September and October, the chairman said that this was the highest monthly total on record. The sharpest increases, he added, were those in Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee. The number of nonagricultural jobs amounted to 600,000 in May was an all-time record for placements in industry in a single month.

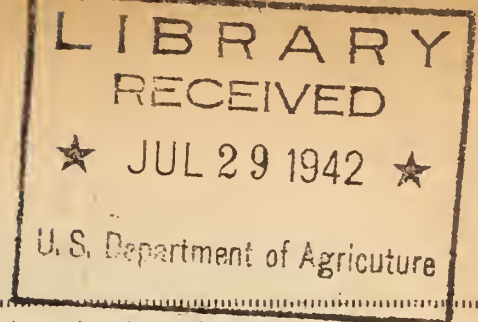
NEW FLOWERS WITH X-RAY. (N. Y. Times (U.P.), July 21) David Durpee, Philadelphia plant hybridist, has produced two new varieties of flowers, originated by the use of X-rays. Both are calendulas. They are derived from seeds exposed to X-rays at the University of California in 1933. Six generations of the resulting flowers were grown to test the new strains. The X-ray treatment, according to Mr. Burpee, brings about greater changes than the drug colchicine, which has long been used to alter plant forms. Colchicine is derived from the Autumn crocus and is known to increase the number of chromosomes of a plant, thus disturbing or intensifying certain traits of the flower. X-rays are more effective because they smash the genes or break up the chromosomes.

FARM MACHINERY AIDS PRODUCTION (The July 4th. issue of Implement and Tractor presents statistical records of the industry during the decade. Excerpts from an editorial follow): Mechanized farming, developed by this industry and vainly emulated in other lands, is one of America's greatest assets in her present emergency.

While some data may reveal that agriculture is inadequately equipped for its most effective wartime operation, the industry nevertheless is enabling older men and adolescent youth, even women and girls, lacking the physical strength required for older farming methods, to sit upon the seats of tractors, manipulate easily-controlled levers and produce more farm wealth per person than the brawnier laborers on Axis farms. Thus the industry permits America to make the best possible distribution of its man power, to divert more from its farms to its fighting forces and its war production industries than can any other nation.

GOVERNORS, PUBLIC ASKED TO HELP KEEP MOTOR TRUCKS ROLLING. (Victory, July 14) ODT Director Eastman has sent letters to the Governors of the 48 States and to trade associations, veterans' organizations, service clubs, the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, and national and State trucking associations urging them to aid in the conservation of the country's 5,000,000 motor trucks. Mr. Eastman asked that the general public, as well as those directly connected with the trucking industry, get behind the new U. S. Truck Conservation Corps which has been set up by ODT in an effort to prevent any breakdown in this vital form of transportation.

The Daily Digest



Prepared by the Press Service for the use of USDA employees. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department of Agriculture.

Washington, D. C., July 23, 1942

CASEIN PRODUCTION HEAVY. (The Dairy Record, July 15) Although paper and paint manufacturers absorbed less casein, production of that product was 10% greater during May than it was for the same month in 1941. Heaviest increase was in the West North Central section which gained 32%. Far western states showed an increase of 14% while the North Atlantic states gained 4% and the East North Central states increased production 6%.

JAP EVACUEES FOR AGRICULTURAL WORK. (War Board Memorandum No. 55) The War Relocation Authority says: The farm labor shortage in a number of states has brought suggestions that Japanese evacuees be made immediately available for agricultural work. The need for agricultural labor is recognized but, there^{are} factors which involve careful consideration before steps could be taken to make such labor available. It will not be possible to interrupt the process of evacuation for the purpose of supplying labor to distant points without disrupting the entire program. These steps must be followed in moving the evacuees from their present homes to war-duration locations.

(1) All evacuees, under military orders, move in family groups from their homes to assembly centers within military area number one. There they remain until the relocation centers are constructed. At the assembly centers physical examinations, inoculations, enlistment in the War Relocation Work Corps, etc., are handled. (2) As rapidly as relocation centers are constructed, evacuees move to them under Federal protection from the assembly centers. Each relocation area is a military area, guarded by military police. (3) The household furniture of the evacuees is then moved from military area number one, where it was stored at the inception of evacuation, to the appropriate relocation center. (4) Evacuees then begin work within the new military or relocation area — some performing public work, some farming, some handling community services, some engaging in manufacturing within the area. After these four steps are completed it will be possible to plan for utilizing Japanese labor in private employment.

RECRUITING FARM WORKERS FROM JAP EVACUEES AT ASSEMBLY CENTERS. (War Board Memorandum No. 55) The Western Defense Command and Fourth Army is doing all possible for employees to recruit agricultural workers from evacuees while they are at assembly centers, and has laid down certain conditions. Employers must (1) pay transportation both ways; (2) recruit on a voluntary basis through the U. S. Employment Service; (3) pay prevailing wages without displacing other labor, and (4) provide facilities for at least the minimum essentials of living; (5) the State and local community must give assurance that the workers will be protected and that law and order will be maintained.

July 23, 1942

There is a tendency to look upon the evacuated Japanese as a much larger potential agricultural labor force than they actually are. One-third are first-generation Japanese who average almost 60 years of age. The second generation are young people, averaging less than 25 years of age. Nearly one-third of the total are under 15 years of age. There are about 40,000 men and women of the second and third generations who are over 15 years of age. If a large proportion of the people of working age will be occupied in the management of their community life (doctors, nurses, school teachers, cooks, waiters, etc.) and in the raising of food-stuffs for subsistence and for sale, it is apparent that the number potentially available for private employment is not very large.

HORSE REPLACEMENT OBSTACLES. (American Milk Review, July)
According to the Borden Company the difficulties involved in extended replacement of motorized equipment by horses make it unlikely that there will be any major substitution. Borden's has about 250 horses in the metropolitan area out of a total of approximately 2,000 routes. These are restricted to the level areas of Bronx and Brooklyn. The Army's demand has created a shortage of horses. Trained stablemen, blacksmiths and wheelwrights are hard to find. A route covered by a horse needs certain equipment that will be difficult to get. Second hand milk wagons are today selling for from \$200 to \$250 and even a stripped running gear, without wheels, body or shafts, will bring \$25 to \$35.

City pavements are hard on horses. Winter cold and summer heat wear them down. Every year, about one-fifth of the animals have to be replaced in spite of care by experienced horsemen and constant medical supervision. Twelve years ago, Borden's metropolitan operations required more than 3,600 horses. Caring for them were 250 stablemen, harness men, blacksmiths, wagon washers, greasers and other help. Two horse hospitals staffed by experts were maintained. The war may compel a resort again to Dobbin in substantial numbers. But the return to the horse will require the overcoming of many difficulties.

WHY CHEESE WITH PIE? (Southern Dairy Products Journal, July)
"Why Cheese With Pie?" is the question raised in a recent article in Hygeia, health magazine of the American Medical Association. Dr. Conrad Elvehjem, internationally known scientist of the University of Wisconsin, furnishes the answers. He states that while cheese just naturally tastes good with pie, it is more than a matter of taste. Nutritive values furnish the important considerations. Nutritionally speaking, cheese and pie supplement each other perfectly. Pie is made with flour. Flour is low in calcium, vitamin A and riboflavin. Cheese is rich in these substances. Flour contains only vegetable protein while cheese is an excellent source of animal protein. If it is a fruit pie, it provides some vitamin C, which is lacking in the cheese.

NEW USES FOR COTTON WASTE. (Canadian Textile Journal, July 17)
New outlets for the numerous quantities of cotton waste resulting from the record breaking consumption of raw cotton by domestic mills are being studied and developed in the mattress, twine and bagging trades, according to the Cotton-Textile Institute, New York. Stocks of cotton

July 23, 1942

waste have been expanding due to a combination of factors, chief among them the heavy consumption of the raw fibre by mills, closing off by war of important outlets in Europe and Canada, and sharp reduction in pleasure automobile production. In normal years enormous amounts of cotton waste are used in the manufacture of motor cars.

Experiments are under way to develop low-cost twine of cotton waste which will be used to tie up bunches of such vegetables as beets, asparagus, celery and carrots. There is required for such purpose, in place of imported fabrics no longer available, low-break tying material which will hold vegetables together in bunches without cutting the stems and which can yet be easily broken by hand. Spinnable cotton waste is being converted into yarns for bagging materials, while unspinnable grades in increased quantities will be used for absorbent and wiping materials and as stuffing for furniture and pillows in place of kapok, now becoming scarce.

FLOW METHOD OF TERRACE CONSTRUCTION. (Soil Conservation, July) Experiences of farmers and SCS personnel in the Montgomery County Soil Conservation District (Illinois) show that the ordinary plow--tractor, horse-drawn, riding, or walking--can be used successfully in the construction of terraces. The use of this equipment, some of which is found on every farm, will simplify the job of getting terraces established on the land. Most terracing equipment is rather expensive and has little use except for the one purpose, which means that only a few individual farmers ever will own such machines. Terraces are being built in the Montgomery County district with the ordinary farm tractor and two-bottom plow as rapidly or more rapidly than with a small 6 or 8-foot blade grader. One man handles the equipment and little supervision is needed because farmers need only a staked terrace line and a demonstration of the system of construction. Twelve miles of terraces were constructed in the district by this method during 1941, while only one-fourth mile was constructed with a blade.

MARKET 264 ANIMALS A MINUTE TO REACH MEAT GOALS. (Meat and Live Stock Digest, July) R. C. Pollock, manager of the National Live Stock and Meat Board, at the recent annual meeting in Chicago, states that the industry was never in a more favorable position to meet war-time demands than today. "The immensity of the task of the live-stock and meat industry this year," said Mr. Pollock, "is better appreciated when we realize that in meeting the requirements for meat supplies, which have been increased because of the war effort, we must market every 60 seconds during 1942, an average of 43 cattle and calves, 158 hogs and 63 sheep and lambs...."

MEAT FOR THRIFTY MEALS. (New Farmers' Bulletin, No. 1908) This bulletin gives suggestions for selecting and cooking the cheaper cuts of beef, pork, lamb, and veal. Cheaper grades and cuts of meat, though fairly lean and not so tender, if prepared right are as full of food value and as tasty as higher-priced steaks and roasts. Chief difference is they take more time in cooking and more skill in seasoning. All kinds of lean meats provide body-building proteins, iron and some of the vitamins needed for good health. Even richer in iron and vitamins than the "muscle" meats are liver and other meat organs. (Available from Office of Information, U.S.D.A., Washington.)

July 23, 1942

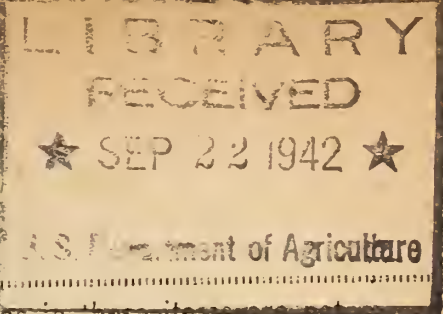
EROSION CONTROL AIDS HIGHWAY UPKEEP. (Soil Conservation, July)
Road officials are confronted with the difficult problem of keeping the highways in shape for the duration. Fixed charges normally consume more than one-fourth of all highway income, and as revenues drop the percentage lopped off by fixed costs rises. Highway officials of Minnesota have a 5.17 mile stretch of "test tube" highway that has produced several ways of making the maintenance dollar stretch farther. The "test tube" lies on Highway 52, a trunk artery between Minneapolis-St. Paul and Rochester.

By 1938, when the improvement was undertaken, there was a great deal of erosion along the slab. The State Highway Department of Minnesota developed plans for the demonstration, with the Soil Conservation Service and Bureau of Public Roads cooperating. Drainage facilities were redesigned to eliminate erosion on the road shoulders, in cuts, on fills, in roadside ditches and on adjacent farmland. Some farmers donated seed for seeding operations. In return, they got improved farm entrances, protection from gully erosion along the right-of-way, and saving in maintaining fences.... Now the entire stretch of concrete is flanked by grass, nature's best guard against erosion, with its streamlined cross-section comprised of graceful shallow gutters and rounded backslopes. This improved road weathered a most severe test. When a $4\frac{1}{2}$ -inch cloudburst struck the area, July 10, 1940, the heaviest downpour in the area in 50 years, there was no apparent erosion along the road. State highway officials report that all repairs and construction work on the State and State aid roads now is being done according to specifications used on the demonstration, and that county highway officials are beginning to follow the example set by the State.

ADJUSTMENTS OF THE DAIRY INDUSTRY TO A WAR BASIS. (Southern Dairy Products Journal, July) The Department of Agriculture has been making every effort to help the industry in its war job, and to make the most effective use of the industry's willingness to operate on a war basis. The program of the Department involves four main lines of action: (1) Outlining production needs as clearly and as definitely as possible as soon as these needs are known; (2) assisting the industry to build and maintain its productive capacity to meet production requirements; (3) directing the purchase programs to encourage the production of the particular products needed; and, (4) creating reserve stocks of essential products to meet unexpected requirements and to absorb the shock of unforeseen changes.

RECORD CANADIAN WOOL CONSUMPTION. (Canadian Textile Journal, July 17)
Wool consumption in Canada reached an all-time high level of 109,245,000 pounds, greasy basis, during the calendar year 1941. The figure was nearly 8,000,000 pounds greater than in 1940, and was three times the quantity consumed in 1930. Of the total of 109,245,000 pounds consumed in 1941, 93,070,000 pounds were imported, with domestic production at 19,200,000 pounds, less exports of 3,020,000 pounds. Domestic production increased approximately one million pounds last year. It is probable that in the first half of 1942 wool consumption reached nearly 60,000,000 pounds.

The Daily Digest



Prepared by the Press Service for the use of USDA employees. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department of Agriculture.

Washington, D. C., July 24, 1942

SUPPLIES OF AUSTRALIAN WOOL. (Canadian Textile Journal, July 17)

Data released by the International Wool Secretariat indicates that the supply of wools in Australia during the past season totalled about 1,826,000,000 pounds on a greasy shorn basis, probably the largest on record, according to Wool Associates of the New York Cotton Exchange. Normally the United Kingdom imports about 300 million pounds of Australian wools. Military uses, however, increased Australian wool shipments to the United Kingdom in the 1939-40 season to about 563,639,000 pounds, but in the following season, 1940-41, wool shipments from Australia to the United Kingdom dropped sharply to about 189,079,000 pounds. The sharp decline of wool shipments to the United Kingdom was not offset by increased shipments to other countries.

DAIRY SUPPLY ASSOCIATION MOVES TO WASHINGTON. (The Dairy Record, July 15)

Headquarters of the Dairy Industries Supply Association are being moved to Washington permanently, after having been in New York City for nearly 24 years. The New York office will be closed. Since the first of the year, the association has maintained an office in Washington.

MILK IN QUARTS FOR ARMY. (Southern Dairy Products Journal, July)

In the future, the Army will purchase all fresh fluid milk in quart containers, according to the Quartermaster General. Exceptions will be made in those cases where smaller containers had been previously purchased exclusively for Army use. Priorities will not be given in connection with materials or equipment for packaging in glass or fibre one-half pint containers or equipment for the homogenization of milk.

PLASTIC MILK CAN LID. (American Milk Review, July)

One of the newer efficiency products to be announced is a sanitary milk can plastic cover. The new unit was designed to improve existing filling methods by providing sanitary protection and visibility in filling. It consists of a transparent plastic cover attached to the filling tube with the cover fitting over the top of the can, enabling the operator to correctly gauge the filling level without having to lift the cover, and, at the same time, preventing the moisture which condenses on the outside of the filling tube from entering the can.

AMERICA'S TRUCKS--KEEP 'EM ROLLING. (ODT Booklet)

Speed is the greatest enemy of tire mileage. For maximum tire life, no truck should ever be operated in excess of 40 miles an hour and every effort should be made to operate at lower speeds. As speed goes up, excessive, damaging heat is generated and tire slippage and vehicle sway increase. The result: precious rubber is scuffed off rapidly and is wasted.

July 24, 1942

Next to excessive speed, nothing ruins a tire faster than to force it to carry loads beyond the limits for which it was designed and built. An overloaded tire generates terrific internal heat, which quickly weakens the tire body. Tread wear is rapid and uneven. For best results, have an experienced truck or tire man advise you on the maximum load your tires should carry. Do not attempt to make up for overloading by increasing the air pressure beyond the recommended inflation level.

NEW MELON IS RESISTANT TO SULPHUR TREATMENT - (N.Y. Journal of Commerce, July 22) - The cantaloupe-growing industry of the Imperial Valley, Southern California, recently jeopardized by a mildew fungus, has been spared future attack from the disease as a result of a new melon developed by a seed co., says special correspondence from Detroit. The new melon is resistant to injury from sulphur dusting, and it can be treated as a result with the specific preventive against mildew without injury. The cantaloupe-raising industry of the Imperial Valley involves an annual production of some more than 2,000,000 crates, valued at \$4,000,000. Seeds for the new resistant melon will be ready after the 1942 harvest.

SWEETENING AGENTS IN MANUFACTURE OF ICE CREAM. (Article by this title in Southern Dairy Products Journal, July) In consumer tests where one-fourth of the sucrose was replaced with hydrous dextrose at the rate of 1.2 pounds of dextrose for each pound of sucrose omitted, and the mixes frozen in a Vogt continuous freezer, the body and flavor of the all sucrose ice cream was preferred by a majority of the consumers. The sweetness of the two were the same. When the mix contained 12 percent fat, the all cane sugar mix was preferred to the dextrose ice cream. When the mix contained 16 percent fat, dextrose was preferred to the cane sugar ice cream. Consumers rated it as having a sweeter, richer, creamier taste than all cane sugar ice cream, and that it had a better body and texture.

POST-WAR BRITISH AGRICULTURE. (The British Farmer at War) The battle of Britain is being fought on the farms at home no less than in the air, abroad, and on the seas throughout the world. That is why such enthusiasm has been put into work upon the land, with results that match those obtained in any other department of the British war effort.

In this the whole of Europe has a direct interest. Vast supplies of food for the ruined and invaded countries have been promised from America and from the British Dominions as soon as the Nazis are defeated. But even when the last U-boat is off the ocean, shipping resources will remain limited for a long time to come. The greater the extent, therefore, to which Britain is able to feed herself, the more quickly will food from abroad be able to reach the starved and plundered peoples of the Continent. British Agriculture is doing much towards winning the war. It will do no less towards bringing plenty to Europe when victory has been won.

July 24, 1942

SOLE LEATHER FROM LIVER CLAIMED BY NAZIS (Hide and Leather and Shoes, July 18) To make up for the acute shortage of sole leather in the Rhineland, German scientists and fashion designers are reported to have introduced new synthetic footwear, sole leather from the livers of slaughtered wild animals! This report comes via neutral sources, as well as the daily newspaper, Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung. According to both, the chemically treated liver retains all the natural qualities of leather in that it has the durability of leather and the pliability of rubber--and in most instances outwears both.

The finished product is said to strongly resemble pig skin in texture, although dark red in color. It is said to neither crack nor warp under the most adverse weather conditions, and is waterproof. Popularly priced at 19.50 to 33.50 in marks the pair, or nominally \$8.80 to \$13.20 American currency exchange, the synthetic leather shoes enjoy a ready sale, it is claimed. Estimated production costs for the liver shoes vary to around 12 marks, or \$4.80 the pair.

SAVE GREASE DRIVE MOVES AHEAD WITH HELP FROM PACKERS. (The National Provisioner, July 18) The national "Save the Kitchen Grease" program is moving forward on all fronts. More than 500 local chairmen of the American Meat Institute, acting as distributive agents for the War Production Board, report that posters are already going up in the retail stores of more than 300 of the larger cities in the United States. The Illinois campaign, which has been under way for some time, is obtaining additional publicity in newspapers and on the radio, and, as the plan becomes better known, additional quantities of fats are finding their way to retail markets, and to the rendering companies. The War Production Board is proceeding with its program of advertising the campaign in newspapers in approximately 200 cities. The local chairmen of the Institute advise the Institute when the store material is up in 75 percent or more of the stores in their locality.

July SOURCES OF QUININE. (Eric Hardy, Liverpool, England, in Medical Record) The extension of the war to the Far East has seriously threatened Java which produces about ninety percent of the world's supply of quinine, the most important antimalaria alkaloid for any campaign in tropical regions. Considerable concern has been voiced in British medical and pharmaceutical circles for the future of the supply of quinine and in view of the dangers to Java, other sources of this valuable drug will have to be found to supplement its supply. There are other sources, chiefly in India and South America, but how far they can replace the Javan supply in the event of enemy control of the Dutch East Indies is not clear.

PASTEURIZATION OF PICKLE PRODUCTS. (The Fruit Products Journal and American Vinegar Industry, July) Until rather recently preservation of cucumber pickle products was accomplished principally by addition of sufficient amounts of vinegar, and in certain cases sugar, to properly cured and processed salt stock. The use of heat in the manufacture of pickle products was generally restricted to that phase of processing wherein the salt was removed from the cured stock. However, the introduction and widespread popularity of certain types of pickle

July 24, 1942

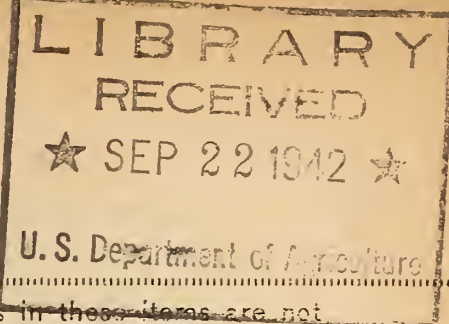
made from fresh or partly fermented cucumbers, have made it necessary for the packer to resort to the use of heat, according to pasteurization, in order to accomplish preservation of these products. When preservation is brought about by pasteurization the final products must not only remain free of spoilage but also free of undesirable physical and flavor changes which may be brought about by overheating. In addition to the necessity of pasteurization in the manufacture of fresh or partially fermented cucumber products, attention is called to the advantage of the pasteurization of genuine dill pickles. Through the use of this treatment a marked improvement in keeping quality is brought about. For this reason genuine dills are included among the list of pasteurized pickle products.

FUMIGANT KILLS INSECTS IN GRAIN, FLOUR. (Scientific American, August) A new fumigant for grain and flour, highly penetrating and deadly to insects but harmless to humans, is announced by the University of New Hampshire. The compound, chlorinated nitroethane, is a clear liquid with a distinct but not disagreeable odor, stated to be safe to shipⁱⁿ ordinary containers. It evaporates readily on exposure to the air, and the fumes penetrate quickly even into large masses of grain or flour. A simple method of fumigating grain in cars consists of putting the chemical on top of the grain and then sealing the car.

SWITZERLAND'S SELF-SUFFICIENCY MOVEMENT. (Foreign Commerce Weekly, July 18) In many predominantly agricultural communities in Switzerland almost 100 percent of the arable land is now devoted to cereals, potatoes, and vegetables. Since 1940 the number of grain-growers increased by 34,000 to 179,700. In consequence, about 18 percent of all Swiss households are now in position to eat bread produced from home-grown grain. Because it is a basic foodstuff, grain has been given a place of primary importance, the total acreage since 1940 being increased by 35,790 hectares, or 25.9 percent, to a grand total of 174,000 hectares.

RIVER CARGOS. (Pathfinder, July 25) Things are humming again along the banks of "Old Man River," and along the intracoastal canals of the Gulf and the Atlantic. Great blocks of barges are carrying more freight over the Mississippi system (including the Missouri, Ohio, Illinois, Tennessee, Monongahela, etc.). Last year it amounted to more than 100,000,000 tons. This year steam tugs, Diesel engined tow boats, motor boats and steam turboelectric tugs, with horsepower ranging from 90 to 2,400, push steel, stone, coal and concrete down the stream and oil, sulfur, cotton, sugar, and what not back up. They are moving only about a sixth as much as the railroads, but that is a lot. They are now carrying more freight than at any time in history. A steel barge holds up to 3,000 tons of freight. There are some 5,000 of them now, owned by 500 companies, and 800 busy little towboats push them up and down the rivers from two to 10 miles an hour, and in blocks of as many as 30 at a time. Such a tow may represent as much as 15,000 tons of freight, the equivalent to seven average trainloads of 50 cars each. An average tow represents about 125 freight cars. This 100,000,000-ton inland water traffic of today (which does not include the Great Lakes) has been largely built up since the First World War, when such traffic amounted to about 25,000,000 tons a year.

The Daily Digest



Prepared by the Press Service for the use of USDA employees. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department of Agriculture.

Washington, D. C., July 27, 1942

BANG'S VACCINATION IN NEW YORK. (Hoard's Dairyman, July 25)

New York State dairymen may now add vaccinated animals to Bang's disease-free herds under new directions issued by the State Department of Agriculture and Markets. Since September, 1941, more than 10,900 calves have been officially vaccinated in nearly 2,700 herds, while applications are pending for about 500 more herds, the Department reports. Under the state plan of calfhood vaccination, vaccinated calves may be brought upon the premises where the herd is being operated under the plan but may not be added to an approved herd until the vaccinated animals have passed two negative blood tests at least 60 days apart.

CASCARA IS MONEY NOW. (Farm Journal and Farmer's Wife, August)

The price of cascara bark, used in medicine, has in normal times ranged from 3½ to 10 cents a pound, but now it is bringing around 15 cents. Largest stand of cascara trees on the Pacific Coast or probably anywhere else in the United States, is in northern Coos and western Douglas counties, Oregon, in the Elliott State Forest. The cut, at least for the next two years, is limited to 25,000 pounds per year, no trees to be cut smaller than four inches in diameter one foot above ground. Thus, it is believed, the yield can be sustained indefinitely.

BAE WAR BOARD REPRESENTATIVES. (War Board Memorandum No. 72)

Office of State BAE Representatives closed July 20. Regional BAE offices and the offices of the State Statistician will continue. The State Statistician will serve as the BAE Representative of the State War Board.

N. J. OFFERS MASTITIS CONTROL AID. (American Milk Review, July)

Announcement has been made of a new bacteriological service for the control of infections mastitis of cattle under the direction of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the N. J. State Department of Agriculture. The service will be carried out with the cooperation of the local veterinarians, who will send milk samples from individual cows to the state laboratory for diagnosis. Tubes will be prepared by the Bureau and sent only to licensed graduate veterinary practitioners who send back the filled vials to the laboratory. A detailed report of the findings will be sent to the veterinarian. The Department does not attempt to recommend treatment for the disease.

July 27, 1942

PLANT INSPECTION OF MILK IMPORTANT. (The Dairy World, July)
Shortage of labor and curtailment of travel by automobile are seriously affecting the field programs of many dairy plants. Consequently it may be necessary more and more to rely on platform inspection of milk rather than on extensive farm inspection to maintain production of high quality raw milk. This will require more platform inspection tests, more reports mailed back to the producer and, highly important, education of the producer regarding the significance of the results obtained by these tests.

WOOD PARTS FOR FARM EQUIPMENT. (Implement & Tractor, July 18)
Wood has been used with satisfaction in the past in the manufacture of certain farm implement parts. It is reasonable to conclude that it can be used now in other parts as a means of reducing the drain on critical metals. At this time it is a matter of necessity to use the most serviceable and economical material that is available in quantity. Wood right now is a material that meets these conditions in numerous cases. The following list includes some of the parts that can be made from wood: Beams for plows and cultivators; conveyor chutes for elevators, shellers and threshers; floors for wagons and spreaders; framework for peanut pickers, poultry batteries, feeders, and grinders; guide handles for plows, cultivators, planters; hitch parts for wagons and other horsedrawn implements; hoppers for drills, fertilizers, lime sowers, planters, feeders; levers for harrows, mowers, rakes, plows; panels for hammer mills, incubators, threshers, shellers; poles or tongues for wheeled implements and wagons; reels for binders and combines; running gears for wagons; manure spreaders, rakes, drills; skids for engines, portable feeders and brooders; tanks for watering, storage, spraying, cooling.

GRAIN IMPROVEMENT IN NEBRASKA. (Farmers' Elevator Guide, July 15)
For the first time in four years of testing farmers' samples of wheat by the Nebraska Grain Improvement Association, a few samples were found to contain stinking smut. The most badly "smutted" sample was one of Chiefkan. If the presence of stinking smut indicates an "upswing" in this disease in Nebraska, Nebred will undoubtedly become very popular because of its resistance to stinking smut. In some of the wheat tests the growth was extremely rank, causing serious lodging. It was noteworthy that Cheyenne, the stiffest strawed variety of winter wheat, was still standing when all other varieties went down, Blackhull, being earlier than most of the Turkey type wheats, escaped damage from army worms in the tests where this pest caused injury. Pawnee was next to Cheyenne with respect to lodge resistance. Seed for Pawnee will not be generally available until next year.

"CARE FOR SHOES" URGES DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE. (Hide and Leather and Shoes, July 18) The U. S. Department of Agriculture is urging civilians to take better care of their shoes during wartime. The Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering says that in order to extend the life of shoe leather, only simple care and small quantities of inexpensive materials are required. The bureau estimates that good care of well selected footwear will cut a family's shoe expense from one-fourth to one-half. It emphasizes, however, that the

July 27, 1942

large savings of leather is even more important than the cost factor.

"Have repairs made as soon as the shoes show wear," urges the bureau. "Keep them in shape by use of shoe trees or paper stuffing. Shoes for outdoor work need greasing; those for street wear need polishing only, except that sometimes the soles may be greased. Dry wet shoes slowly, never too close to the fire. In summer, shoes that need waterproofing should not have so much grease applied as in winter. Polishing shoes is not all for show; the leather chemists say polish resists water, makes shoes more flexible and adds to their life."

USE OF WOOL FELT IN SURGICAL EQUIPMENT. (Medical Record, July)

For many years wool felt has been a preferred material in the wide field of surgical appliances, and its usefulness is rapidly increasing because for many applications it is an acceptable substitute for rubber. From corn plasters by the multimillion, through the wide range of corrective footwear, to the multitude of special appliances invented by the orthopedic surgeon, it is a cushioning material without equal. On war fronts, surgeons travel not only in ambulances to the front line stations, but in tanks as well, and their armor, like the tank corps armor, is padded as is a football player's. Tank walls are felt-lined and ambulance stretcher racks are cushioned with it.

BRITISH WOMEN IN FARMING. (British Information Services) Further utilization of the woman power of Britain is foreshadowed with the recent registration for national service of all women of 42 in the United Kingdom, and the announcement that a dual-purpose women's labor army is being formed which will harvest crops this autumn, do factory work this winter, and return again to the farms next spring....One of the hardest jobs for women is with the **Women's Land Army**, which has recruited 30,000 women for full-time farm work to increase the domestic food output and thus save vital shipping space for other purposes.

BAI TO PERMIT PICKUP OF SALVAGE FATS. (The National Provisioner, July 18) The Bureau of Animal Industry has issued a circular letter which permits the transportation of kitchen grease and other rendered fat and unrendered inedible animal fat in meat delivery trucks or vehicles of an official establishment from meat markets, stores and other places of collection to the inedible product rendering department of a federally inspected establishment or to other fat receiving places. Fat shall be placed in clean and suitable containers. Also, care should be taken not to produce insanitary conditions within the trucks or vehicles.

NEED FOR INCREASED REFRIGERATED STORAGE FACILITIES. (The Fruit Products Journal and American Vinegar Industry, July) The vital role of refrigerated warehousing in the war effort and the necessity for relaxing regulatory measures to give the "broadest possible freedom in the handling and movement of food products," were emphasized by J. R. Shoemaker, Division of Storage, Office of Defense Transportation, in an address last month to the Association of Food and Drug Officials of the United States, in New York. The tremendous task of storing an

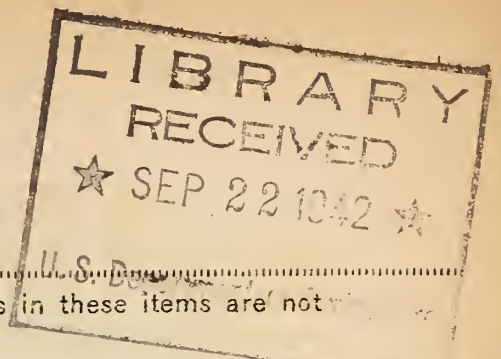
July 27, 1942

increasing volume of high-vitamin foods under refrigeration, and the growing demand for refrigerated storage facilities due to the acute shortage of cans, have presented problems which are occupying the constant attention of the ODT. "High-vitamin perishable foods have assumed far greater importance in the entire food picture than has been the case in past years. They are now a 'must' in the diet of our armed forces as well as those of our allies, and of course in civilian life. There are three primary methods of conservation of perishable foods--canning, freezing, and dehydration. Each has its important place in the program. Due to the shortage of critical materials, canning is perforce greatly curtailed. This will especially affect civilian supplies of canned foods due to the heavy requirements of the armed forces and for overseas shipment. Freezing, and storage under refrigeration, will conserve a wide range of food products such as eggs and poultry, dairy products, meats and meat products, and fruits, both fresh and frozen....A number of state laws coming under the category of 'trade barriers' are administered by your departments. I urge that where any of these regulatory measures in any way impede or interfere with the war effort, prompt action be taken to correct the situation for the duration. There should be the broadest possible freedom in the handling and movement of food products."

WEST COAST MILK MILEAGE CUT. (American Milk Review, July) Reports from the west coast indicate that a variety of methods are being developed in different localities to effect the ODT order for a 25 per cent reduction in mileage traveled by milk delivery units. The cities of San Francisco, Oakland and other Bay municipalities are reported to be operating on an every-other day basis. Distributors in Alameda county are said to be working on a zone system whereby each delivery truck covers one designated area. Customers are swapped between different companies to make this possible. Other methods to reduce mileage were given consideration but the every-other-day system is the one most widely adopted.

FROZEN EGGS PACKED IN CELLOPHANE - (N. Y. Journal of Commerce, special correspondence from Wilmington, Del., July 24) - Frozen eggs are now being packaged in cellophane, with an outside overcoat of cardboard, as a further contribution to the metal saving program. The average American housewife has never seen a frozen egg -- in cellophane or out -- but she has served many a cake and quantities of ice cream, noodles, and other food made of eggs whose new laid freshness was preserved by freezing. Egg freezing is an important factor in feeding this Nation and its allies. Estimates for 1942 run to a new peak above 350,000,000 pounds or 3,430,000,000 eggs. Heretofore eggs were removed from the shell, poured into tin cans holding 30 pounds each and then frozen and stored. Because of the metal shortage, more than a score of egg packers have turned to a new paperboard container lined with moistureproof cellophane. The new container weighs 30 percent less than metal; is rectangular instead of round, saving much shipping space, and is less expensive than metal.

The Daily Digest



Prepared by the Press Service for the use of USDA employees. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department of Agriculture.

Washington, D. C., July 28, 1942

TOWARD "TOTAL" ENRICHMENT OF FLOUR. (American Miller, July)

By July, flour mills with a total daily capacity of around 300,000 196-lb. bbl. per day, were pledged to enrich all "mill-controlled" brands of family flour. Inasmuch as leading private-brand purchasers of family flour already are all-out for enrichment, the Millers National Federation campaign for 100% family-flour enrichment looked well on the way to success....Chief of the Food & Drug Administration's Vitamin Division, Dr. E. M. Nelson's, responsibility weighs the more now that chain bakers and wholesalers are producing at the rate of 5,000,000,000 lb. of enriched bread per yr.; and now that total household-flour enrichment is a goal within reach. U. S. consumers depend on him to bring up short any who trifle, in mill or bakery, with Uncle Sam's enrichment standards.

PACKERS FACE CEILING CRISIS. (The National Provisioner, July 25)

The U. S. Department of Agriculture hastened to the aid of the meat and livestock industry this week, while the Office of Price Administration exhorted packers to "stand and take it" in a multiple crisis with complex causes and, apparently, no wholly satisfactory solution immediately at hand. Recognizing the danger of loss of processing capacity (which will be badly needed this fall and winter) through plant closure, Secretary Wickard announced the AMA will reduce its prices on pork bought for lend-lease shipment. This reduction of the differential between lend-lease and domestic pork maximums is expected to take some of the "heat" off the hog market and relieve the situation of some of the non-inspected and non-contracting packers. At the same time the Secretary said his department is working on a plan to purchase the production of smaller packers who are near closing.

It was also reported from Washington that OPA is considering the feasibility of establishing price ceilings on live hogs. Until recently the price agency has been opposed to such ceilings but may now be inclined to favor them. Meanwhile, spurred by press uproar about beef shortages in eastern cities, Price Administrator Leon Henderson asked packers to spread meat supplies evenly among all consumers during the season of light livestock runs; the American Meat Institute replied that the meat industry was already doing so.

SORGHUM FLOUR USED. (Food Industries, July)

In West Texas, flour for food products is being manufactured from sorghum grains. The flour is obtained chiefly from white kafir and hegari. It is being successfully made into yeast breads, biscuits, waffles and gingerbread in the home economics department of Texas Technological College.

July 28, 1942

IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE FURTHER LIMITED. (War Letter for Agriculture, July 20) Manufacture of an additional list of civilian articles is prohibited by a WPB amendment to the iron and steel conservation order. A manufacturer of items on this supplementary list is given 30 days from July 13 to process iron or steel for these purposes. Assembly of these articles is permitted for an additional 30 days. Among items of interest to farmers on the list are: Barn pushers and scrapers; chicken house scrapers, garden trowels; harness and saddlery fittings (except for draft, work, and ranch animals); hitching posts; railings, barriers, and fences (except livestock and poultry enclosures); and water troughs.

EXPERIMENTS WITH ASPARAGUS BUTTS. (Article by this title in Fruit Products Journal for July describes preliminary experiments by the Western Regional Research Laboratory and California Experiment Station) Probably at least 20,000 tons of asparagus butts are accumulated in trimming the stalks at field houses and at canneries in the delta district in California. Most of these have in past years been dumped into the river to eventually decompose and disappear. The College of Agriculture at Davis, California, has shown that air dried asparagus butts have about the over-all feeding value of good oat hay; but approach alfalfa hay in protein content. In this period of overtaxed transportation from the Middle West corn belt it would seem desirable to utilize the butts for this purpose. The butts contain considerable nitrogen; therefore, are probably of some fertilizing value and where suitable fields are near at hand, could be spread and plowed under.....The juice, lightly salted or lightly salted and acidified, was found to be an excellent medium in which to can asparagus stalks; the flavor of stalks so canned being much superior to that of similar stalks canned in dilute brine....The pasteurized juice was readily soured to over 1% lactic acid with pure cultures of *Lactobacillus plantarum*. This acidified juice is somewhat like kraut juice in flavor and could be used as a "health beverage" or as a medium in canning asparagus or other vegetables.

WHAT ABOUT MEAT RATIONING? (The National Provisioner, July 18) The fact that meat rationing need not work any special hardship and, in fact, may forestall acute shortages later by preventing heavy buying by a few, has given the public a new concept of the term. Such has been the general experience with the sugar rationing program. Also, most people now realize that we are in the war "for keeps" and that extraordinary measures are needed in handling supplies of necessities. It is fairly evident that rationing of civilian supplies other than sugar, and of gasoline in the East, is only the beginning of such control. Leon Henderson recently stated that rationing plans are being considered for 15 additional groups of products. While the groups, or products, were not mentioned, it might not be far-fetched to guess that meat and meat products are under consideration for possible future action.

July 28, 1942

COTTON, PAPER FILL BAG SHORTAGE. (Farm Journal and Farmer's Wife, August) Cotton and paper makers hope to supply the need for new bags while no new burlap--or the jute from which it is made--can come from India. Some farm co-operatives are getting as high as 70% of their bags back for re-use. Production of cotton and paper bagging is up 50% from last year. The cotton will cost from 10 to 25% more than burlap under the price ceiling. Grange League Federation started a burlap bag-return program four years ago, is now allowing an average of 13¢ for each one turned back by customers. A year ago returns averaged 65%. Since Pearl Harbor, they have averaged 70% and customers have saved themselves \$552,500 in the seven months.

Atlantic Commission Company, produce subsidiary for A & P, announces that it isn't using much burlap anyway. Last year, 65% of its Maine potatoes, 86% of its Long Islands, and 38% of its Idahos were packed in 5 to 25 lb. paper bags that hold up well during shipment and are more economical than either burlap or cotton.

Farmers Co-operative of Raleigh, N. C., instituted a bag-return campaign on December 8, is now getting only about 10% but plans a promotion campaign to step things up. Southern States Co-operative, Richmond, Va., is getting an average of 20% return on used bags, allows 12¢ apiece for them. Feeds, seeds, etc., in Nebraska and adjoining states are beginning to sell "in your own containers." Feed concentrates, formerly shipped in sacks, are now selling in bulk.

PAPER SHREDDER PRODUCES PACKING MATERIAL. (Scientific American, August) Old newspapers, magazines, waste paper, and out-dated correspondence can be converted into paper excelsior with a shredding machine which produces this packing material at low cost. With this machine fresh packing material is readily made from paper that otherwise might be baled and sold, thus obviating the necessity of purchasing new packing material. The shredding knives in the machine are made of hardened tool steel which, it is claimed, will cut light metal such as paper clips, staples, pins and so on, without injury to the cutting edges.

OILS SHORTAGE HITS FRENCH AFRICA. (Foreign Commerce Weekly, July 11) The conservation of peanut oil for edible use in the Federation, French North Africa, and Metropolitan France, and for industrial use as a substitute for Diesel oil, is believed to be the purpose of a recent measure of the government of French West Africa which, in effect, prohibits the use of peanut oil in the manufacture of soaps. Though it is necessary to use peanut oil and its byproducts locally as industrial fuels--and in France and North Africa as a substitute for butter, olive oil, and cooking fats--the peanut crop for the 1941--42 season is reported to be only half the usual size.

NEW PAMPHLET ON DEHYDRATED FOODS. (The Fruit Products Journal and American Vinegar Industry, July) A new booklet of 44 pages entitled "Nutritive Value of Dried and Dehydrated Fruits and Vegetables", has just been issued by the New York Experiment Station, Geneva, N. Y. Data in this interesting pamphlet are of value to all food dehydrators. The booklet is available at 15 cents.

BRITONS WON BY U.S. CANNED MEATS. (Article in The National Provisioner, July 25, by Connery Chapell, News Editor, London Daily Dispatch) The chief difference between American and British food is that the American is so much more varied. British food, however wholesome, has always been much plainer than that of almost any other great nation. A London housewife has no idea of the innumerable types of salad regularly made in the United States, no knowledge of the various sauces turned out by the ordinary French cook, no thought of the hors d'oeuvres produced at little cost in Scandinavia. In Britain, food is often much too orthodox; in peacetime the same meals used to turn up in endless rotation with little experiment. Roast beef, roast lamb, steaks, game, and fish made up the stock dishes. This lack of variety continued in wartime.

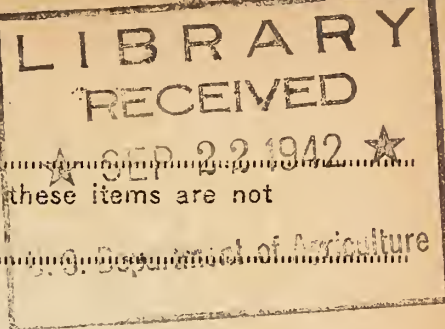
So the wholesale introduction of American canned food into Britain--a result of wartime rationing--has been welcomed by most people, who have suddenly discovered a whole field of new dishes. A nation whose kitchens had previously been taking slowly to the can opener suddenly discovered how good these new foods were. The American novelties were first introduced by Lord Woolton's Food Ministry in an attempt to brighten wartime menus which, by reason of rationing, were tending to become more restricted. Dishes like chicken were becoming rarer and more expensive; game was disappearing and quantities of beef and mutton were diminishing as shipping space became more valuable.

Britain has always depended on imports for rather more than one-half its food. The island is small and highly industrialized. Bacon came from Denmark, Eire, and more distant places; mutton, although home-reared lamb always had a more succulent flavor, came mainly from New Zealand and Australia; beef from South America and other overseas markets. Even in eggs, the country was far from self-supporting. So when the American canned meats made their first appearance, housewives quickly realized that they were being offered something more than a wartime makeshift. They were being introduced to a new form of food, which would prove just as acceptable after the war, when there would again be plenty of the stock dishes. Enormous stores of canned foods were built up under the lend-lease agreement with the United States.

Now, after the British public has had more than a year to get used to the new ideas in food, the lend-lease canned meats prove the most popular individual item on the points rationing scheme. More points are consistently spent on U.S. luncheon meat than on any other item in the scheme. At times, perhaps, more are spent on these meats than on all other items put together. The effect of this innovation on British cooking after the war will be considerable, and so will its influence on the American export trade. It is taken for granted by big retailers in Britain that the demand will be permanent. Dishes like corned beef hash, which may be traditional to the United States, but which were almost completely unknown to the average Britisher before the war, are now appreciated as nutritious food, simple to make and tasty to eat. Such dishes will not automatically disappear from the British menu the moment roast beef returns in unrestricted quantities.

The Daily Digest

Prepared by the Press Service for the use of USDA employees. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department of Agriculture.



Washington, D. C., July 29, 1942

WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN. While a few sections of the country need rain, the week was favorable for farm operations, especially for small grain harvesting and threshing and making hay. There were damaging, heavy rains locally in central Virginia and south-central Pennsylvania, but otherwise rainfall in the East was helpful. The most extensive dry areas include a considerable south-central section comprising the lower Mississippi Valley and southwestern States extending from Colorado and Utah southward. In southwestern New Mexico critical drought conditions continue.

Except locally in the more eastern States and a few limited north-central districts, small-grain farmers had another excellent harvest week. Winter wheat harvest is about completed, except in some later western and northwestern sections; threshing is progressing favorably. In the western Wheat Belt returns continue good to excellent, but there are many reports of disappointing yields in parts of the Ohio Valley. In the Spring Wheat Belt conditions continued satisfactory, with cutting progressing in southern sections. Reports indicate that harvest in the Red River Valley of Minnesota will begin next week. Oat harvest advanced well, although variable in some eastern interior localities. Flax harvest is beginning in the upper Mississippi Valley, but is backward in the northern Great Plains. In the Gulf area rice is heading, with later varieties looking well; warm weather was favorable in California.

While more moisture would be beneficial in many scattered localities of the Corn Belt, there is no urgent need of rain over extensive areas and the crop advanced satisfactorily in most sections. The drier localities include many places in the Ohio Valley and the extreme northwestern belt. Corn is developing rapidly with early fields tasseling as far north as southern Michigan and Wisconsin, and beginning to tassel to the extreme northern Great Plains. Silking is reported northward to central Indiana and ears are shooting, with pollination conditions excellent, in the upper Mississippi Valley.

Temperatures were near normal in the Cotton Belt. Rainfall was substantial to heavy in more eastern sections, but light to moderate in other portions. In Texas progress of cotton was fair except in some coastal and south-central counties where weevil are active. In the central States of the belt progress was good. In the lower Mississippi Valley plants are fruiting satisfactorily. Rains in parts of the eastern States promoted weevil activity and excessive plant growth in some wetter sections, but otherwise conditions were favorable.

July 29, 1942

G.B. - U.S.S.R. SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION. (Science, July 24)

It is stated in Nature that men of science in Great Britain now have the opportunity of exchanging scientific inquiries with the U.S.S.R. through official channels. Letters addressed by individual British men of science to individual Russian men of science, or communications from British scientific societies to the corresponding Russian societies, can be forwarded either to Sir John Russell, F.R.S., Ministry of Information, London, or J. G. Crowther, the British Council, London. They will take the necessary steps to forward the communications to the U.S.S.R.

GOVERNMENT LAB DEVELOPS NEW APPLE BY-PRODUCTS. (Better Fruit, July)

At the Western Regional Research Laboratory extensive research is being conducted in apple by-products. Experiments are being made with apple pectin as an emulsifying agent, and the laboratory has developed several tannic acid and sulfanilamide jellies and pastes using apple pectin as the emulsifying agent in place of imported water soluble gums, which are no longer available. This work is being done at the request of the U. S. Navy and the products appear to be satisfactory, although as yet they have not been tested in actual use. The adoption of pectin for such uses in the pharmaceutical field would also open up an opportunity for its use in the cosmetic products. In addition to the use of pectin in drugs and cosmetics, food products such as salad dressings require emulsifying agents for which pectin could be used. For such use apple pectin can not only be produced domestically but is less expensive than tragacanth and similar imported water soluble gums.

Several types of apple powder made by cooking dehydrated cooked apple juice were also shown. The samples ranged in consistency from a taffy-like substance to a coarse grained pinkish powder. They also had a cane sugar syrup flavored with Winesap powder. This syrup has a distinct Winesap aroma and flavor, amber in color and very clear. The laboratory had made apple jelly and apple butter from the apple powder, both of which appeared quite satisfactory.

WOOD FUEL IN WARTIME. (New F.B., No. 1912, available from USDA Office of Information) To make a ton of steel for a cannon, a warship, or a tank, requires more than a ton of coal. Transportation of fuel and raw materials for war industries, of food, clothing, and equipment for soldiers and sailors is vitally important and tremendously difficult. To supply homes and businesses with the quantities and kinds of fuel used in peacetime adds to the difficulty. Coal, for example, makes up about one-third of the total freight normally carried by railroads, and increasing amounts of fuel must now be delivered to munitions factories and power plants. If domestic consumers will use wood obtained nearby, instead of coal and oil brought from mines and wells hundreds of miles away, then ships and railroad cars can be released for hauling war materials.

There is a growing popular demand in small communities for information on the fuel value of wood, how to cut cordwood without damage to the forest property, how to produce and market it more economically, and how to operate heating equipment when burning wood. Since most fuel wood is much improved by seasoning for a few months, action should be taken to provide a supply well in advance of the winter when the fuel will be needed.

July 29, 1942

U. S. DEATH RATE DECREASES, CHIEFLY IN RURAL AREAS. (Science News Letter, July 25) Lowest death rate in the history of the United States death registration States was recorded in 1941, the U. S. Census Bureau announced. Provisional mortality statistics for that year, just tabulated, show a crude death rate of 10.5 per 1,000 population. The 1940 rate was 10.8, a slight increase over the previous low level of 10.6 reached in 1938 and 1939.

There were 21,362 fewer deaths in 1941 than in 1940. Most of the decrease occurred in the rural areas. The greatest decreases were in the District of Columbia, Idaho and Vermont. Greatest increases in death rates for individual states were in Arizona and Virginia. Total number of deaths for the entire nation for 1941 was 1,395,507.

SALMON SUPPLY. (A.M.A. Marketing Activities, July) Salmon supplies available to domestic consumers will be short. The 1942 salmon pack is estimated at not over 5,000,000 cases--considerably smaller than the 1931-40 average of 6,882,000 cases. The Agricultural Marketing Administration expects to buy at least 2,800,000 cases for the armed forces and for Lend-Lease shipment. Well over four-fifths of our annual salmon catch comes from Alaska, and the AMA is working on contracts that will assure Alaskan packers recovery of 85 percent of their "out-of-pocket expenses," should their operations be reduced by enemy action or action by the U. S. Government. The contracts will assure the undertaking of fishing expeditions in Alaskan waters--that otherwise would not be made because of the risks involved.

VEGETABLE OIL CROPS IN MONTANA. (The Chemurgic Digest, July 15) Considerable interest is indicated in Montana regarding the possibility of successfully cultivating various vegetable oil crops. Due to the fact that there has been no dependable market for safflower oil, the development of acreage has been rather slow. Growers in various sections of the state have found that safflower can be cultivated successfully. The Northern Montana Mustard Growers Association is actively creating interest in the further utilization of mustard oil for industrial purposes. Several out-of-state crushing companies have purchased a test supply of Montana mustard seed of the McCormick variety, and it is possible that a market can be developed for this oil. This variety contains about 30 percent oil, which is reported to exceed the other varieties in this respect. Mustard oil has long been used in medicines, but it is also used to a limited extent for special industrial purposes for which cottonseed oil is unsuitable.

DIVERSIFICATION IN USE OF FERTILIZER. (The American Fertilizer, July 4) The National Fertilizer Association is helping to bring about greater diversification in the use of fertilizer. In 1928 five crops--cotton, corn, wheat, potatoes, and tobacco--accounted for 81 percent of all fertilizer used, whereas in 1938 these crops used only 67 percent of the total. This shift was especially pronounced in the cotton belt. In 1928, nine cotton-fertilizer States (North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas) used 4,600,800 tons of fertilizer and 2,125,960 tons of cotton, or 46 percent. In 1941 these same States used 4,226,400 tons of fertilizer, 1,522,000 on cotton, or only 36 percent. There was a loss of 603,690 tons on cotton and a gain of 229,530 tons on the other crops. We believe that by encouraging the fertilizing of pastures, legumes, corn, small grains, and forage crops all the tonnage lost on cotton can be regained and more besides.

July 29, 1942

BRITISH COWS GO TO WAR. (Pure Milk, July) After two years of war, milk in England was so short that it had to be rationed. Now, after almost three years and in the midst of all wartime difficulties, British dairy farmers have managed to step-up milk production, announced the British Broadcasting Company recently. "Dairy farmers in this country have done a magnificent job. In 1939 they were providing the people in this country 750 million gallons of milk. In 1941, in spite of labor shortage and restrictions on imported feeding stuffs, they produced 940 millions. In May last year, in one month, they provided 103 million gallons and now they've beaten even that high level. That is why the Ministry of Food has been able to announce recently that, until further notice, there will be no restriction on the sale of milk.

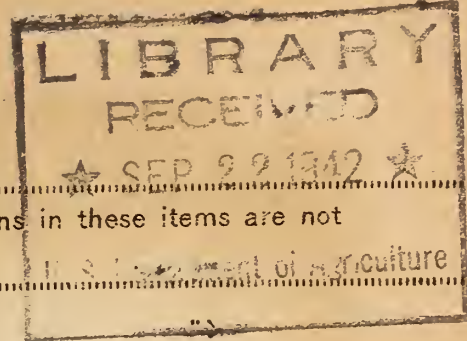
SUGAR TO BE EQUALLY AVAILABLE IN ALL SECTIONS OF COUNTRY. (Victory, July 21) Additional machinery to make America's curtailed sugar supply equally available to consumers in all sections of the country was set in motion by the OPA working in conjunction with the Defense Supplies Corporation. Arrangements have been completed with the Corporation for Government reimbursement to west coast cane sugar refiners for unusual costs in moving refined cane sugar from their California plants to territories east of Chicago.

ODD FACTS OF THE WAR. (Southern Agriculturist, July) The 630,000 pounds of steel used last year in manicure scissors would make over two hundred 75-millimeter guns....The 110,000 pounds of steel which went into blackhead squeezers would make four 155-millimeter guns, 1000 three-inch trench guns, 4,400 thirty-caliber machine guns, 55 sixteen-inch shells, 110 one ton bombs, or better than three 15-ton tanks....Hair and bobby pins used enough steel to make 1,333 three-inch anti-aircraft guns....Ice skates and roller skates used enough steel to build the hulls of two heavy cruisers....The elimination of metal signs saved enough steel to provide the structural steel for four new battleships.

EMBRYO CULTURING AS AID TO PLANT BREEDING. (Article by this title in The Journal of Heredity, June) It appears that much sterility inherent to interspecific hybrids, as expressed by the abortion of the partially developed embryos, can be overcome by excising the young embryos under aseptic conditions and placing them on suitable nutrient media. Four hundred fourteen embryos from 116 different interspecific *Prunus* crosses have been successfully germinated, and approximately 300 embryos from 29 different *Lilium* crosses have been successfully germinated by using the embryo culturing technic. Work along these lines in other genera undoubtedly will enable plant breeder to obtain many forms which were genetically possible but previously unobtainable.

HANDBOOK OF NUTRITION. (The Journal of the American Medical Association, July 18) This article, by Dr. James S. McLester, Chairman of the Council on Foods and Nutrition of the American Medical Association and member of the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Research Council, is the first of a series of articles on foods and nutrition prepared under the auspices of the Council on Foods and Nutrition. These articles will be published later as a Handbook of Nutrition.

The Daily Digest



Prepared by the Press Service for the use of USDA employees. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department of Agriculture.

Washington, D. C., July 30, 1942

NEW APPLE, IDARED. (Farm Journal and Farmer's Wife, August)

A new apple for the Northwest is being introduced this year by the Idaho Station. It is Idared, A Wagener x Jonathan cross, the best selection of nearly 12,000 seedlings developed and tested by the Idaho Station in recent years. Idared is somewhat larger than either parent; its shape is intermediate between the two; outside color is nearly solid, bright red; flesh is creamy white, crisp, tender and juicy; core is unusually small; baking quality high. Claimed for the new apple: resistance to fire blight and Jonathan spot; long storage life (sound, good eating quality in air-cooled storage until April or later). Scion wood is being distributed to nurserymen and a few commercial growers.

BEEF BLOOD PLASMA IN SUCCESSFUL TEST. (The National Provisioner, July 25) Wholesale testing of the new beef blood plasma on 2,714 inmates of Massachusetts penal institutions is reported. The tests were administered by members of the Harvard medical school, who have been working with the packing-house product the last 18 months to determine its possibility in replacing human blood in wartime transfusions. Experimental results so far have been favorable. Of the more than 2,700 men given the beef blood plasma, only seven showed an unfavorable reaction.

Use of beef blood would have several advantages over the use of human blood, research workers point out. It is not necessary to type the beef blood as is the case with the human product. Human plasma in blood banks must be kept at lower temperatures than is necessary with the packinghouse product, a disadvantage under field conditions. Supply of beef plasma is practically unlimited, several million gallons being produced annually by packers. Research workers have been concerned with the problem of preparing beef albumen in such a form that it would be harmless when injected into man.

NEW PAPER CONTAINER USES MANUFACTURING PACKAGING FACILITIES.

(The Locker Operator, July) After many months of experimentation, the American Can Company has developed a method for making cans with fibre bodies on machines used for the manufacture of metal containers. This new method, which American Can will make available to the industry as soon as the new method has been thoroughly tried through actual production, is considered the most important development made in the can manufacturing industry within the past decade. Containers made by the new method will be available for those packing dry products, such as drugs, cosmetics, spices, powders, etc.

July 30, 1942

BOOK ON PAN AMERICAN TRADE. (Marketing Activities, July) Pan American Trade, a new book by John William Lloyd, professor of fruit and vegetable marketing at the University of Illinois, graphically describes the development of the commercial fruit industries in the various countries, particularly Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Mexico, and Cuba. It is recommended to economists, members of the fruit trade, and the general public. Publisher: The Interstate, 19 N. Jackson St. Danville, Ill.

AGRICULTURE IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. (Foreign Commerce Weekly, July 25) The Trinidad Government has endorsed a policy supporting mixed farming, as contrasted with the one-crop cultivation hitherto prevailing under a colonial economy, and set up a committee to advise the Governor on all aspects of this new approach to the basic internal needs of the colony. Another committee has been named to consider the registration of available labor that might be utilized to further the war effort, particularly by increasing food production. The food shortage continues, and additional measures have been taken to safeguard existing supplies, especially in the case of flour, which has been rationed. All commercial orders for American products are now being handled either by the Food Controller, who purchases only in bulk through the Colonial Supply Liaison at Washington, or the Control Board, which allows only such imports as are essential to war purposes. The 1941-42 season has been the worst experienced by cocoa planters, sugar estates, and coffee growers for many years.

THE LITTLE FARMER'S FRIEND. (Editorial in Country Gentleman, July) The Farm Security Administration has helped permanently--length of time considered--more worthy farm people who were in dire need than any other agency of government in the history of this country. It has been the means of raising thousands of farmers from distress and dependence to the level of self-sufficiency and substantial citizenship. To countless numbers of under-privileged and low income farmers the Farm Security Administration, through repayable loans, has offered the first ray of hope they have ever experienced. It has given them means, leadership and inspiration to fight for a home or some belongings of their own. As we see it, FSA represents a sound Government investment in higher standards of living and citizenship. It has a multitude of rehabilitated farm families to offer as proof.

TOUGH ON TIRE THIEVES. (Edited in Country Gentleman, July) Back in frontier days folks were rather rough with a horse thief when they caught him. We now have the modern counterpart of the horse thief. He is the tire thief, and legislatures are beginning to enact stiff punishment for him in a number of states. Illinois, Massachusetts, South Carolina, Rhode Island, Mississippi, New Jersey and Virginia have upped their penalties sharply. Other states, whose legislatures meet this winter, are expected to take similar action.

WPB ISSUES BIBLIOGRAPHY ON WAR PRODUCTION. (Victory, July 21) A bibliography on war production has been issued by the WPB. Prepared by the Legislative Reference Service, Library of Congress, the pamphlet, Selected Documentation of the Economics of War, cites authoritative books, articles, and other materials for writers, students, public speakers, and research workers. There are four major parts: The Economics of War, Mobilization of Resources, Fiscal Policy and Consumption Control, and Economic Warfare. Copies are available from Division of Information, War Production Board, Washington, D. C.

July 30, 1942

FOOD LOCKERS IN FAT SALVAGE CAMPAIGN. (The Locker Operator, July)

Lockermen are strategically placed to materially assist in the fat salvage campaign, because they have closer contact with their patrons than the meat market usually has with its customers. People using locker service are above average in their cooking of meat, which means more fats that can be saved, such as pan drippings from roast ham, beef, and other meats, together with deep fats, whether lard or vegetable shortening, used in frying fish, doughnuts, etc. Locker plants are already being serviced by rendering trucks making pick-ups from the meat cutting department.

HUNDREDS OF HOME ITEMS ALREADY OUT OF PRODUCTION. (Victory, July 21)

A new survey of WPB orders issued the first 6 months of 1942 shows that hundreds of household items once considered almost in the essential class have already been taken off the Nation's production lines and that, when present inventories are gone, citizens will have to turn to substitutes or "make do" with what they have. High in the list of these articles are numerous electrical appliances, ranging from such relatively essential items as refrigerators and ranges to luxury items like waffle irons and hair dryers. These products were manufactured in some 28,000 plants located in all parts of the country in which were employed some 1,500,000 workers. The factory sales value of the civilian products manufactured in these plants last year was approximately \$3,800,000,000. (A list of stopped or curtailed lines and the war goods that have replaced them appears in WPB Release 1528.)

Several million tons of steel, copper, brass, aluminum, rubber, plastics and other materials were consumed annually in the production of these civilian products.

WARTIME FEEDING OF POULTRY. (Poultry Tribune, July-August)

The immediate poultry feeding problem due to the war is adjustment in rations to supply adequate protein, and vitamins A, D, riboflavin, and the water-soluble factors usually associated with riboflavin. This was emphasized in a recent report issued by the Committee on Animal Nutrition of the National Research Council. These adjustments are necessary due to the decreased supply of fish oils and fish liver oils, the diversion of large amounts of dried skim milk to human needs, and the possible shortage of certain protein supplements in some areas.

The committee points out that vitamin D may be supplied through the use of D-activated animal sterols or by getting the chickens outside where they are exposed to direct sunshine. Speaking before the American Feed Manufacturers Association recently, Harry W. Titus, U. S. Department of Agriculture, said, "D--activated animal sterol is not a partial solution of the problem of finding a source of vitamin D for use in mixed feeds for poultry; it is a complete solution. Some feed manufacturers have been hesitant about giving this product full acceptance and have used it to supply only about one-half the vitamin D in their feed mixtures. However, there need not be any hesitancy about using it as the sole source of vitamin D. Experiments conducted at several of the state experiment stations, at the Beltsville (Md.) Research Center, and in the laboratories of several feed manufacturers have shown that the vitamin D in 'D' - activated animal sterol is equal, unit for unit, to that in cod liver oil in the feeding of poultry. Moreover, as many of you know, this product has been widely used during the last two years in fortifying vitamin-A and -D feeding oils with vitamin D."

July 30, 1942

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS' CONVENTION. (Implement & Tractor, July 18)

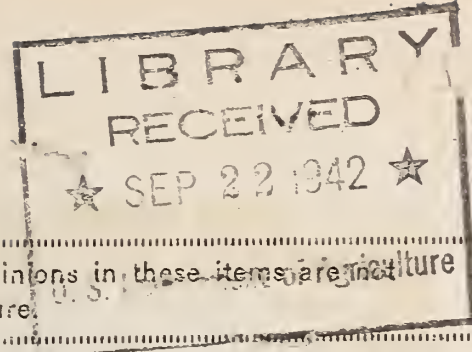
The wartime responsibilities of the agricultural engineer was the dominant theme of the recent annual meeting of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, in Milwaukee. Five activities were indicated as essential to carry out a coordinated program to make the most effective use of labor, machines and power: (1) to train machine operators and repair men; (2) to plan for extended use of existing machines locally and in areas of machines locally and in areas of machine shortages, along with the best placement of new machines; (3) to determine methods and promote plans to improve tractor efficiency, economy and to extend years of service; (4) to develop and crystallize an engineering approach to the selection and use of farm power and machinery units, and (5) to sponsor an accident and fire prevention program.

TEMPORARY GRAIN STORAGE. (Poultry Tribune, July-August) American farmers will have to store a large amount of grain right on the farm. The department of agricultural engineering, Ohio State University, has designed an octagonal 750-bu. storage bin, which may be set on the floor of any roofed building and used as temporary storage. Being eight-sided, it fits well into small spaces with a minimum of waste space. When the grain is marketed, the bin can be taken down and stored in a very small space. Plans for this may be secured for 10 cents in coin, by writing Department of Agricultural Engineering, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

INDUSTRIAL ALCOHOL MOVING TO SMOKELESS POWDER, SYNTHETIC RUBBER PLANTS. (Victory, July 21) The transportation system set up in recent months to feed industrial alcohol in unprecedented quantities to newly-built smokeless powder and synthetic rubber plants is functioning efficiently, ODT reports. The program called for transportation of large quantities of blackstrap molasses from Gulf ports and grain from the West to industrial alcohol plants on the eastern seaboard and in the Middlewest, for the movement of "high wines"--140 to 160 proof alcohol made in whiskey distilleries--to industrial alcohol plants for rectifying into 190 proof, and for the shipment of the finished alcohol to smokeless powder and synthetic rubber plants.

SERICULTURE IN BRAZIL. (Foreign Commerce Weekly, July 25) Sericulture in the Western Hemisphere has found its leading exponent in Brazil, which is said to have especially favorably climatic conditions for cultivation of the mulberry tree and breeding of silkworms. In Japan two to three crops of cocoons are grown yearly, whereas in Sao Paulo as many as 8 successive crops can be raised, and even 12 crops have been grown in some sections of Brazil. After a high cocoon production of 600 metric tons in 1936, the output dropped to only 393 and 403 tons in 1937 and 1938, respectively, owing to a sharp decline in world silk prices, and remained at a low ebb until present world conditions again lent encouragement to a decided upturn, achieving a production of 700 metric tons for each year. The National and State governments are actively promoting silk culture in Sao Paulo which now produces 95 percent or more of Brazil's entire crop. A Service of Silk Culture has been created which supplies interested parties with mulberry slips and silkworm eggs, without charge.

The Daily Digest



Prepared by the Press Service for the use of USDA employees. Views and opinions in these items are necessarily approved by the Department of Agriculture.

Washington, D. C., July 31, 1942

ARGENTINE BEEF IS BONED, COMPRESSED, QUICK-FROZEN. (The National Provisioner, July 25) As a result of the success of Argentine experiments in the quick freezing of meat for export, conducted jointly by Buenos Aires research workers and technicians of the Argentine Meat Producers' Corporation and the Smithfield Argentine Meat Co., it is reported that the Argentine meat packing industry is on the threshold of a general change-over to the quick-freezing method for fresh meat exports. Adoption of this method would represent the third stage in the transformation of Argentina's great pre-war export trade in chilled beef. The first was the substitution of frozen meat in the place of the chilled process. The second was the application of boning to frozen chiller quality beef as a shipping and storage economy measure.

The latest development which involves boning, compression and quick-freezing, combines many advantages, notably the reduced time element in refrigeration. This process also preserves the bright appearance of the meat and its good flavor. Most important feature of the quick-freeze process is the reduction in bulk which permits shipment of one ton of beef in 50 cu. ft., compared with 106 ft. required by one ton of chilled beef and 80 ft. for boned meat. The British food ministry has been an interested observer of the experiment and it is understood that arrangements are being made for shipment to Great Britain of quick-frozen meats.

SEEK TO GROW SUGAR SUBSTITUTE. - (N. Y. Times, July 17) - Intensive experiments in growing sugar substitutes have been going on in Britain since the outbreak of the war. Experts at world famous Kew Gardens have just announced their success in growing the plant *Steedia Rebaudiana* which has long been used by the natives of Paraguay as a sweetening agent. It is doubtful whether it can be grown generally with any success in the variable climate of the British Isles, but trials in parts of Cornwall, warmest county in England, have been encouraging.

FARM GOODS ON RUBBER RESTRICTION LIST. (War Letter for Agriculture, July 27) With a view to further conservation of rubber, the WPB has provided more stringent specifications which will limit the amount of rubber available for a long list of civilian products. Of interest to agriculture in the list are milk and milking machine equipment, hog scraper (beater) paddles, belting, hose, packing, and rubber footwear. A saving of 400 to 500 tons of crude rubber per month is anticipated from the new specifications on the total list.

July 31, 1942

LONG STAPLE COTTON PUT UNDER WPB RESTRICTION. (War Letter for Agriculture, July 27) Long staple cotton, both domestic and foreign, has been placed under tight restrictions by WPB. Top grades of this cotton are to be reserved for restricted uses as follows: Reserved cotton, imported or ginned in this country before July 27 this year, may be used only for filling defense orders or for manufacture of stitching thread. Use of such cotton in stitching thread is limited to 75 percent of the rate of use in 1941 for such purposes. Reserved cotton imported or ginned after July 27 may be used to fill orders up to October 1 for the Army, Navy, or Maritime Commission; it may be delivered also to the Board of Economic Warfare, Commodity Credit Corporation, or any RFC corporation.

Other than that, none of the reserved cotton may be used, sold, or delivered except as specifically authorized by WPB. The cotton reserved is used normally for high strength cotton fabrics, such as balloon cloth, airplane fabrics, typewriter ribbon, and tracing cloth. Now it will be used in military fabrics, such as barrage balloons, life rafts, and parachute shroud lines where tough wear and strength are important qualities.

LOCKER INDUSTRY WAR TIME DUTIES. (The Locker Operator, July) In a letter to the National Food Locker Association's War Relations Committee, E. J. Overby, assistant to Secretary Wickard, summarizes the lockerman's place in the war picture:--"....There are a number of things which we believe the Frozen Food Locker Industry could do which would increase its contribution to the war effort: (1) Encourage the maximum use of locker plant facilities for processing and storing home produced foods, rather than for the storing of foods purchased in large quantities from more distant sources of supply. (2) Make every effort to maximize the efficiency of use of frozen storage space. (3) Disseminate to locker plant operators and locker patrons information on the technology of preservation of foods by freezing, particularly of fruits and vegetables. (4) Give careful attention to the possibility of conserving fats through careful trimming of meat before placing it in storage.

OPA SUGGESTS WOODEN LUGS. (Implement & Tractor, July 18) A partial solution of the tire problem has been worked out for Kansas wheat farmers in the rationing office of the OPA. When wheat was ripe for harvest many farmers could not get tires for tractors and combines. The OPA office in Wichita had a trial set of wooden lugs built of 3 by 5 in., white oak and attached to the rims of tractor wheels with 3/8 to 5/8 inch iron rods held in place by turn-buckles. These substitutes for rubber tires gave the required traction. Cost of the make-shift equipment runs from \$35 to \$50 a pair. While it was only anticipated that the wooden lugs would insure the use of tractors through the present wheat harvest, if the wood is creosoted or dipped in oil they will, in many instances, serve the farmers next year.

NEW TYPE BINDER TWINE IN IRELAND. (Foreign Commerce Weekly, July 25) Binder twine from flax is the answer of a large rope company in Ireland (Eire) to the farmer's need for cordage to market his crops. This company has planted about 1,000 acres of flax to be used for the purpose, in counties Carlow, Kildare, North Wexford, and Wicklow. Special equipment has been installed in a Kildare factory to spin the new type twine.

July 31, 1942

CANADA SAVES BY SIMPLIFYING LUGGAGE. (Hide and Leather and Shoes, July 25) Taking the trunk and luggage manufacturing industry as an example, the regional office of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board of Canada pointed out the great savings in vitally needed materials and the economy to industry that is resulting from the board orders. The effect of the order limiting the number of designs and size of trunks and luggage to 50 percent of that offered in 1941 will be to increase manufacturers' productive capacity by an estimated 10 to 20 percent with no increase in staff or equipment. With the demand for luggage of all types having increased considerably since the start of the war, increased production is essential, not only to supply the armed forces but those men in industry and business relating to the war who must do a great deal of traveling.

FALLACIES ABOUT MILK. (Southern Dairy Products Journal, July) There are many popular fallacies about milk which need to be corrected. In spite of the accumulation of a vast array of facts in regard to milk and milk products, there are still many persons who sincerely believe that milk is intended only for calves and young babies; that milk should not be consumed with fish or other sea food; that thunder will sour milk; that milk is constipating; that milk is primarily a fattening food irrespective of the other foods consumed; that acid fruits make milk indigestible; and that those individuals who persistently consume milk either have, or will shortly develop, a bovine mind. There are no facts to substantiate these fallacies.

after GRAIN STORAGE. (Hoard's Dairyman, July 25) Filling present bins fuller/checking to see whether bin floors are strong enough to carry the additional load is one practical way to increase grain storage space on the farm. Where joists are not strong enough, placing an additional joist in each space will double the strength of the floor. Nailing a 1 x 6 or a 1 x 8 across the grain bin at each stud will increase the wall strength greatly. These are the suggestions of H. B. White, Minnesota Experiment Station engineer, who urges farmers to make present buildings shipshape to carry the extra grain.

HIGH-YIELDING, DISEASE-RESISTANT NEW OAT VARIETIES. (Country Gentleman, July) The nation owes much to T. Ray Stanton, oats specialist in the Bureau of Plant Industry, and to H. C. Murphy, of Iowa State College. On down the line is a large group of workers who have made valuable contributions. A number of Corn Belt hybrids, carrying Victoria genes, are already available. They are making the same spectacular performance in comparison to old oats varieties that the Vicland is making in Wisconsin. Three new named varieties, developed in Iowa for Corn Belt conditions, have been released. They are the Boone, Control and Tama. All these new varieties resulted from an Arlington Farm cross by Stanton between the Victoria, which carried the high resistance to smut and crown rusts, and the Iowa oat Richland, an early vigorous oat of the Kherson type, which is highly resistant to stem rust. P. C. Mangelsdorf, of Harvard University, and E. S. McFadden, of Texas Experiment Station and U. S. D. A. have developed two outstanding oat varieties for Texas conditions. One is Ranger, the other Rustler. Rangler is still another selection, adapted to South Central Texas and other southern regions. I. M. Atkins, U. S. D. A. man at Denton, Texas, Experiment Station, has developed from the Fulghum-Victoria cross a new highly valued oat with great resistance to crown rust and smut. Its short, stiff straw adapts it to combine harvesting.

July 31, 1942

SIMPLIFIED STANDARDS FOR SHOVELS, SPADES, AND SCOOPS. (War Letter for Agriculture, July 27) Simplification of sizes and standards of all hand tools has been provided by WPB in order to help conserve iron, steel, and other critical materials. First tools to be covered by the order will be hand shovels, spades, and scoops; a schedule accompanying the order provides for simplification of these tools in the next few weeks. Further schedules are authorized for issuance from time to time to govern types, forms, specifications, or other qualifications for any hand tools. Concentration of production on fewer lines will also release forging presses and other productive facilities for the manufacture of war equipment.

BRAZIL INCREASES PRODUCTION OF AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY. (Foreign Commerce Weekly, July 25) Production of agricultural machinery has increased to such an extent during the past 5 years that the country now considers itself almost self-sufficient in this respect. Local factories supply the major part of the requirements for separators, cotton processing equipment, all types of plows, cotton gins, hoes, spades, and picks. Little heavy equipment, such as tractors, is manufactured, however. Because of increased domestic production, imports have declined sharply.

NO EPIDEMIC IN ARGENTINE HOOF-AND-MOUTH. (The National Provisioner, July 25) Reports of an increase in the number of hoof-and-mouth disease cases among cattle in some sections of Argentina have been received by the Department of Agriculture, but officials said that this was a characteristic of the disease and did not indicate an epidemic. Dr. S. O. Fladness of the Department's field inspection service, who visited Argentina last winter said, "They are apparently having one of their bad years. In the countries where there is hoof-and-mouth disease, the disease seems to go in cycles. There will be a bad year, followed by a period in which the disease is not so prevalent."

CHEESE PROMOTION. (Butchers' Advocate, July 22) Many retailers are losing sight of the fact that they can augment their sales through the promotion of practically all types of cheese. The market has been practically stabilized by the Government, giving it a strong position. There are on hand and in storage houses, the largest quantity of cheese ever for July 1. Although a great proportion of this total amount of cheese holdings is owned by the Government, the supplies for consumer and civilian use are enormous. This means that some merchants in the retail field are going to sell greater quantities of cheese than ever before. As this market is not pricecealed, the independent retail dealer has the opportunity of making good compensating profits for his merchandising effort in promoting cheese sales.

CONTROL WHEAT FOOT ROT. (Country Gentleman, July) Early planting of winter wheat may result in serious losses from dry-land foot rot, the Bureau of Plant Industry reports. Investigators have found that the disease develops best in warm weather, and that by delaying seeding operations until at least the normal date, losses are reduced. Dry-land foot rot has taken a heavy toll of winter wheat in the light-rainfall sections of the Great Plains during the last two decades. When a field is moderately infested it resembles one that has been subject to extreme drought. The plants are more or less stunted and ripen prematurely. In a badly diseased field the plants may die before coming into head. A diseased plant develops a dark brown to black color of the crown. Soil treatments and seed treatments have not been effective in checking the disease.